WEDNESDAY
April 8, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 57 • No. 83

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

To subscribe, give a missed call at 9828331787 or scan QR code

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

POLICE VISIT

Assam CM's wife files case against Khera

NEWS » PAGE 8

NUCLEAR BREAKTHROUGH

A 'critical' leap for Kalpakkam PFB reactor

NEWS » PAGE 10

POST SC ORDER

NCERT reconstitutes textbook committee

NEWS » PAGE 10

Bengal electorate shrinks 12% as 27 lakh out after judicial reviews

Latest exclusions take total names deleted from the rolls in the poll-bound State since SIR began to 91 lakh; highest number of voter deletions after adjudication in Muslim-majority Murshidabad district, followed by North 24 Parganas and Malda

Shrabana Chatterjee
Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Over 27 lakh West Bengal voters who were put under adjudication were excluded from the electoral rolls following the completion of the judicial reviews on Tuesday, with over a quarter of such deletions occurring in two Muslim-dominated districts.

In all, 91 lakh names have been deleted from the State's voter list since the special intensive revision (SIR) began, meaning that West Bengal's electorate has shrunk almost 12%, from 7.66 crore electors in October 2025 to 6.75 crore now, days ahead of the Assembly election. In the Assembly election in 2021, 7.34 crore voters were eligible to cast their ballot.

Falling numbers

The table shows the top-five (red) and bottom-five (blue) West Bengal districts in deletion of voter names that were under adjudication for 'logical discrepancies'

Choice on the line: People whose names were deleted from voters' lists queue up to present their cases before judicial officers in Nadia, West Bengal, on Tuesday . PTI

District Name	Deletions
Murshidabad	4,55,137
North 24 Parganas	3,25,666
Malda	2,39,375
South 24 Parganas	2,22,929
Purba Bardhaman	2,09,805
Purba Medinipur	19,572
Bankura	6,533
Purulia	5,942
Kalimpong	2,407
Jhargram	1,240

■ Highest number of deletions was recorded in the **Muslim-majority Murshidabad** district, **and the Bangladesh-bordering North 24 Parganas** district

27.1 lakh voters under adjudication were removed from electoral rolls

91 lakh electors were removed from voter rolls in West Bengal since October last year

SOURCE: ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

About 63 lakh electors were removed from the voter list under the SIR in the State till February 28. In addition, 60.06 lakh were put under adjudication; of these, 27.16 lakh, or 45%, remained excluded on Tuesday, according to data shared by the Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal. The highest number of such deletions was in Murshidabad, the district with the highest percentage of Muslim population in West Bengal. Of the 11.01 lakh names from the district which went for judicial scrutiny over the past few weeks, over 4.55 lakh were excluded. North 24 Parganas, a district which borders Bangladesh and sends the highest numbers of MLAs to the Assembly, has registered deletion of about 3.25 lakh electors under adjudication, followed by Malda, another Muslim-dominated district, with 2.39 lakh deletions.

Last chance

The fate of the 27 lakh excluded voters now lies with 19 appellate tribunals set up across the State, and people started thronging them even before the exclusion list was released. However, for this election where polling is held on April 23 and 29, these voters have run out of chances to exercise their franchise.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8
'HOW CAN POLLS BE FAIR?'
» PAGE 9

Renewed violence in Manipur leaves 4 dead

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Four people were killed in renewed violence in Manipur's Imphal Valley on Tuesday.

Officials in Bishnupur district said two children – a five-year-old boy and a six-month-old girl – were killed and their mother injured when suspected extremists hurled a bomb at their house in the Moirang Tronglaobi area around 1 a.m. The Meitei-inhabited area is close to the hills of the Kuki-Zo-dominated Churachandpur district.

The killings triggered protests, and a mob attacked a CRPF camp close to Tronglaobi.

Home Minister Konthoujam Govindas said five sustained bullet injuries (in firing by security forces), and two of them died later.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

II PU results likely tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The II Pre-University (PU) course results are likely to be announced on April 9.

However, the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) is yet to announce the time of announcement.

While the KSEAB had given the tentative date of announcement of results as April 7, it was delayed due to the election code of conduct.

Around 7.1 lakh students have appeared for the exam. This includes 2.92 lakh from science, 2.11 lakh from commerce, and 1.42 lakh from arts. The exams were held from February 28 to March 17.

'Earthset' boulevard

The other side: An 'earthset', where earth dips beyond the lunar horizon, as seen from the Orion spacecraft of the Artemis II lunar flyby mission on Monday. The four astronauts on NASA's flyby mission on Monday marked the furthest humans have been from the planet. AFP

A civilisation will die in Iran if deal not accepted, says Trump on 'deadline' day

Stanly Johny

U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday threatened that "a whole civilisation will die" if Iran does not accept his deal and reopen the Strait of Hormuz before his 8 p.m. Eastern Time (5.30 a.m. on Wednesday in India) deadline. Tehran, in turn, issued a warning that its response would deprive the U.S. and its allies of oil and gas for years.

U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance, who is in Hungary, said his country has "tools in our toolkit that we so far haven't decided to use" against Iran, without elaborating further. The White House later said Mr. Vance did not mean use of the nuclear weapons. Responding to a post on X that said Mr. Vance implies the President would use nuclear weapons, the White House Rapid Response said: "Literally nothing @VP said here 'implies' this, you absolute buffoons".

Iranian children in Tehran on Tuesday mark 40 days since the fatal strike on a girls' primary school during the ongoing war. REUTERS

Iran's UN representative, Amir-Saeid Iravani, said Mr. Trump's threats "constitute incitement to war crimes and potentially genocide", adding that "immediate and proportionate" action will be taken if the U.S. President follows through on it.

If the U.S. "crosses red lines, Iran's response will extend beyond the region", Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) said in a statement. "Iran will attack the infrastructure of the U.S. and its partners that will leave the U.S. and its allies deprived of oil and gas in the region for years," it said.

The statements came as Tehran reported the U.S. and Israel had already begun attacking key infrastructure including bridges and railways.

Iran's Mehr news agency also reported that U.S. and Israel carried out strikes on Kharg Island in the Persian Gulf, which is a key export terminal for Iran's oil and gas.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8
'HUMAN CHAINS'
» PAGE 13

SC begins review of Sabarimala judgment

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Justice B.V. Nagarathna, part of the Constitution Bench hearing a reference spurred by a 2018 judgment upholding the right of women of menstruating age to enter the Sabarimala shrine in Kerala, said on Tuesday that social ills cannot be branded and passed off as 'essential religious practices'.

The Union government, which holds the position that the Sabarimala judgment was an intrusion into free exercise of religious freedoms, said the legislature, not courts, drives reform in religion.

"If social evils are given a religious colour, then the courts can intervene to distinguish [between] the two," Justice Nagarathna said.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, who opened the arguments before the nine-judge Bench, said the Preamble to the Constitution champions liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith, and worship.

The exchange marked the first day of hearing of a reference to evolve a 'judicial policy' for constitutional courts while dealing with questions of right to religious freedom enshrined in Article 25 and a denomination's privilege to manage its own religious affairs under Article 26 of the Constitution.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

KDA for 27 minor State languages as 3rd language option

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Amid the ongoing debate over the State government's decision to only grade third language papers in the SSLC exam, the Kannada Development Authority (KDA) has decided to recommend that the government include 27 languages, spoken by more than 10,000 people in the State, as third languages.

As of now, the State offers third languages such as Hindi (NCERT), Kannada, English, Arabic, Urdu, Sanskrit, Konkani, Tulu, and Marathi. The new proposal by KDA would include other minority languages of the State, apart from Tulu and Konkani already being taught, like Kodava, Yarava, Badaga, Arebhashe, and Koraga languages among others to be offered as a third language.

290 micro languages

The KDA has conducted a study and prepared a report on the prevailing micro-languages in the State. According to the report, there are 290 micro-languages in Karnataka. Of these, 27 languages are spoken by more than 10,000 people. The number of Kannada speakers in the State is 4,06,22,836, while the number of Tulu speakers is 1,92,915, the number of Kodava speakers is 1,10,508 and around 26,536 people speak the Yarava language.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, KDA Chairman Purushottama Bilimale said the report is ready and will be submitted to the government soon. "It is not right to adopt only dominant languages, including Hindi, as the third language in the State. Instead, emphasis should be placed on the other micro-languages existing in the State. If the micro-languages in the State are to flourish and grow, at least languages spoken by more than 10,000 people should be introduced as a third language. Otherwise, these minor languages will die in the next 10 years," he said.

Purushottama Bilimale

"My mother tongue is 'Arebhashe,' and when we were students, we unknowingly referred to our mother tongue as Kannada. However, after the Arebhashe Academy was established, everyone started identifying their mother tongue as Arebhashe. If the Koraga language is allowed to be taught in schools in the Kundapur region, it will survive. If not, the language will die soon," he said.

These languages are spoken primarily in limited areas. Therefore, in the areas where minor languages are spoken, there should be an opportunity to study these minor languages as a third language alongside other languages already being offered as a third language, Prof. Bilimale argued.

The big challenge to offer these languages as an option for third languages in schools will be the availability of teachers. Prof. Bilimale said that since these languages are spoken in limited areas, these languages can be introduced in a limited number of schools in such areas and teachers made available. For instance, there are many Badaga speakers in Mysuru district. We should introduce Badaga as a third language in at least one school in the district, he suggested.

He said the government should involve people from these communities, prepare textbooks and appoint teachers. The Kannada script can be used for languages that do not have their own script, he said.

NEARBY

Public campaign for byelections concludes

BELAGAVI/HUBBALLI
Public campaigning for the byelections to Bagalkot and Davangere South Assembly constituencies concluded on Tuesday evening with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and other leaders making last-minute efforts to woo voters. » PAGE 4

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 3

INTERVIEW

Heinrich Klaasen

I have to play in four or five different ways

Every game is going to present different situations. It takes a different skillset to understand it and execute the plans

K.R. DEEPAK

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Heinrich Klaasen entered this season of the Indian Premier League carrying a few lingering self-doubts. The South African has been away from the intensity and grind of international cricket for nearly a year, a gap that can unsettle even the most seasoned players in a format as unforgiving as T20.

Determined to stay competitive, Klaasen explored new ways to keep himself in rhythm. If the first three matches are any indication, those efforts are paying off handsomely. With 145 runs at a strike rate of 147.95, including two half-centuries, the Sunrisers Hyderabad star has not only found his groove but shifted the pressure firmly onto the opposition – and then some.

In an online interaction, Klaasen reflected on his form and that of his team, his dominance against spin, his electric partnership with Nitish Kumar, and more. Excerpts:

Starting the IPL with back-to-back 50s must feel good...

Unfortunately we've lost two games, but on a personal note, it's been a good start. One of my biggest concerns was not playing as much cricket as I used to. Can I still keep up with the standard that I set myself with? It's been a pretty good start and hopefully this form will continue.

How have you adapted to stepping away from international cricket?

International cricket is a big miss in my game, but there are small things that I do that just keep me up to the pace of normal cricket speed. I've been working with a lady in Cape Town called Sherylle, who's an eye doctor. We call it an EyeGym. It just helps you make a lot of decisions under pressure and in a certain amount of time. That has been working for me over the last year in making sure that my decision-making and reaction times are good.

It's just that one percent that you have to take a little bit more care of and give yourself a little bit more training right before coming into a competition like this. Normally, you can have a week or two off before you come into a long tournament like this. I just had to change my training schedules and make small tweaks like that to make sure that I get up to speed as quickly as I can.

How would you assess Sunrisers Hyderabad's performances so far?

It's a tough question. I will give us about a six at this moment.

We have played some brilliant cricket in parts, but we're just losing the plot in the crucial phases of the game. We lose it so badly that it just puts us out of the game entirely.

If you take the game against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, we lost three wickets in the PowerPlay. Same against Lucknow Super Giants.

I honestly do think the bowlers are hanging on exactly as planned. That aspect is doing very well. The rest of the batting unit is doing well. There are a lot of positives. I'll say about 80% positive.

Our fielding in the first two games hasn't been up to standard at all. In our last game, against LSG, it was better. We're working on that, and we're setting a new standard for ourselves to put teams under pressure and make sure we hang on to our catches. But it's not at the standard that we set for ourselves, as it stands.

I'll give us a six and not go with seven, which is an easy cop out. We want to get to eight and nine to make sure that we get some momentum. There's no panic in the changing room yet. We're looking forward to getting on a roll and putting all three compartments of the game together.

SRH's batting line-up is probably the most fearsome in the league. But with Pat Cummins missing, there are some concerns over the bite in the bowling unit, at least on paper. What do you make of it?

Our batting has been good so far, but we've missed out on about 40 runs over the three games. So there's still a lot of work to do for our batters.

Obviously, if you miss a bowler like Pat Cummins, it's a loss for any team in any format. Same with (Brydon) Carse. The rest of the bowlers are super experienced, especially our pace department.

The wickets have been good in the two games in which we struggled in. We just didn't execute with the bat like we wanted. It's easy to say our bowlers don't have the experience or are under the pump, but in the two games that we've lost, the batters left about 20 to 30 runs on the board.

We saw it against KKR, we put enough runs on the board... That's our job. We need to get to that 220-230 mark. That's why we have set up the team we have now, so we give our bowlers a proper chance at defending.

SRH's spin pool looks relatively inexperienced with players like Harsh Dubey and Shivang Kumar. What have you made of their ability to work under pressure? Is that lack of experience really such a big factor, especially in the middle overs?

They've been fantastic so far. Our poor fielding makes their figures look bad. Our fielding has been poor against them, so that makes their figures look bad.

The team should take it on the chin and keep encouraging them (Harsh and Shivang) to do what they do.

Having faced them in the nets, I can tell you that they may be inexperienced on paper, but they're definitely experienced in playing the game and know what to do with the plan.

They bowl extremely well. They haven't really played on wickets that've been spinning too much. They're just hanging on at the moment, picking up crucial wickets when we need it. I can't wait till we get to a wicket that just suits them a little bit more, and then people will see the brilliant skill set that they have.

> We're getting everything together and, hopefully, we can make it to the IPL playoffs. We will have an extremely good chance of winning the trophy then

What do you make of Ishan Kishan the captain so far?

He's been superb so far. He's a guy who asks for advice. We've got a lot of experience in the changing room, so he leans on that as well. But his decision-making, the way he changes the ball, the way the team listens to him, has been phenomenal so far.

We're in superb hands and luckily, he's not an arrogant guy at all, which makes it a lot easier. He's a really enjoyable captain to play under.

There are a lot of jokes in between which helps because this game brings quite a tough environment to play in.

He's been superb and he has had some success in the domestic scene as well. I think his domestic team won a competition recently, so there's a lot of experience in that aspect.

TraviShek's wonderful starts – how much of a cushion does that give the team?

It depends on how you see it. Sometimes, when they go at 14 or 15 an over, you feel like the wicket is extremely flat or they make it look flat and you want to keep up with that pace. Sometimes that can put you under pressure a bit.

But having played with them for three seasons now, I do understand that you can play on tempo as well. They give you the luxury to hold on and get yourself in and then go again so that the run rate never really drops below 11 or 12.

How has your role in this side evolved?

It's a role that I've played my whole life and in my whole career. You have to adapt to those situations and you have to be able to play different roles in the team. My role in the team is to keep on going if TraviShek and Ishan have put the opposition under pressure.

But the days that doesn't happen, I need to make sure we get into a position to defend a total.

I know that's my role. I have to play four or five different ways, but that's just what is required to be a professional cricketer at this moment. Every game is going to present different situations. It takes a different set of skills to understand those things and execute plans accordingly.

You have a great partnership going with Nitish Kumar. How are you both finding a rhythm in the middle-order?

It helps when you play together for a couple of years. You start to understand each other, you understand what makes each other tick. Our communication this season has been incredible. We've been taking a lot of pressure off each other, especially from his side.

He's been taking a lot of pressure off me at the start of my innings. So a lot of credit needs to go to Nitish.

He's in form at the moment, so that makes it a lot easier as well to drop and change our plans as we go and to identify the bowlers each of us likes to take down.

He reminds me of playing with David Miller. In your career, you get a few guys you just enjoy batting with.

Nitish is extremely quick so when you feel like you're under pressure a bit, you can always run two or three and make the over a little easier instead of just searching for boundaries.

Running between the wickets becomes a crucial part of the game then. I love seeing him grow as well. It's just been fantastic this season and hopefully we can put on a couple of more big partnerships.

You have been known as the spin destroyer of SRH. How did that come about for you?

South Africa has some quality spinners and I've played a lot of four-day cricket at a stage where my career really needed it. It is a stage where probably all of those spinners played four-day cricket as well.

I'm used to the ball turning away from me. I faced a lot of Tabraiz Shamsi in the nets, who is a quality spinner as well.

A lot of training, a lot of hours have been spent experimenting. I've been in India for five to six years now. Over the years, I've gained some experience.

Earlier in my career, we went to Sri Lanka, where the ball actually spun quite a bit. We had to figure things out for ourselves and learn new tricks.

I'm very blessed to be able to play spin well. It's always a challenge to keep taking them on because I know they're looking to get my wicket.

Is it safe to say that you love playing in India against the spinners specifically?

The boundaries here are not the biggest in the world. We're used to some big boundaries. But the wickets are fantastic, so it's a nice place to come to. It's still a big challenge. I know they're coming for me and they know I'm coming for them.

This season, I see that they've got a couple of game plans, so I need to get back to doing some good homework against them and finding new ways of scoring against them.

Is there any Indian spinner that you enjoy playing against the most?

It's an easy answer, Yuzi (Yuzvendra) Chahal. We've had a few great battles over the last couple of years. He's a quality bowler and very clever.

I think we're about 50-50 on winning those battles. He's a good mate of mine as well, which makes it even better to fight against him on the pitch.

Does the IPL stand out in any way compared to the other leagues?

It's by far the toughest there is in franchise cricket. I sometimes feel it's tougher than international cricket. It depends on who you play but the standard of cricket and obviously the conditions play a big part.

Every year, you just see a new Indian player coming through who you never knew about.

The talent just sets the standard so high. It is by far the best competition in the world. There are a couple of tournaments they are striving to reach the same standard. But it's tough.

Do you have a message for the Sunrisers Hyderabad faithful?

Just be patient. You can't win a competition in the first week. We're getting everything together and, hopefully, we can make it to the IPL playoffs. We will have an extremely good chance of winning the trophy then.

I think we're long due and we've got the squad to win a trophy. Keep supporting us and we're looking forward to producing some good performances.

DKS asks Joshi why fuel ships were sent to Gujarat

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Stating that the Union government is more concerned about the northern States, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar sought to know from Union Minister Pralhad Joshi why ships carrying fuel from the Gulf countries were sent to Gujarat and not to either Kerala or Karnataka. Speaking to pressmen at Hubballi Airport on Tuesday, Mr. Shivakumar took exception to Mr. Joshi's suggestion to autorickshaw drivers to shift to petrol from CNG in the wake of shortage.

Mr. Shivakumar said that Mr. Joshi should have worked towards protecting the interests of the State.

"Why ships carrying fuel did not come to Mangaluru or Kerala ports? He is only taking care of North India. South India is being neglected," he said. To a question on whether there is politics involved, he said that as the BJP has no political base in South India, politics is being played in such matters.

Transport, tourism sectors in State seek urgent relief measures

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association (KSTOA) has urged the Centre to announce immediate financial relief measures for the transport and tourism sectors, citing severe distress caused by the ongoing West Asia conflict.

In a representation addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, the association said the disruption of international travel and trade has significantly impacted business activity. Suspension of flight operations and reduced movement between countries have led to a sharp decline in demand, affecting transport operators and tourism stakeholders across Karnataka and the country.

Highlighting the gravity of the situation, KSTOA president K. Radhakrishna Holla stated that the sector is facing severe financial stress, and requires urgent intervention to sustain operations and protect employment. The association has sought relief measures for a minimum period of three months for all transport vehicles. Among the key demands are a moratorium on bank loan repayment for vehicle owners, deferment of direct and indirect taxes without penalties, and temporary relaxation in Employees' State Insurance (ESI) and Provident Fund (PF) contributions. The association has also requested interest-free working capital support to help operators manage day-to-day expenses.

Additionally, the KSTOA flagged challenges faced by operators who invested in National Alternative Fuel vehicles in line with government policy. Due to fuel supply constraints, these operators are now struggling financially, prompting the association to seek special incentives for such vehicle owners and drivers. Describing the transport sector as the backbone of tourism and trade, the association further stated that timely government support is crucial to maintain economic stability.

Continued West Asia crisis increases stress on manufacturing sector

This situation is affecting port operations, shipping activities, container movement, and energy supply — particularly LPG

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

The continued West Asia crisis has thrown the manufacturing sector into disarray, causing significant operational bottlenecks that show no signs of easing. The situation is affecting port operations, shipping activities, container movement, and energy supply – particularly Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). These disruptions are driving costs higher, say industry players, expressing fears about a much bleaker future if conditions do not improve.

With limited pricing power, rising LPG prices — critical for foundries, heat treatment, and fabrication — are directly compressing margins. FILE PHOTO

Kamal Bali, president and managing director, Volvo Group, noted that geopolitical disruptions and the resulting volatility in fuel and shipping markets were pushing up freight charges and product costs. "We are also seeing cost escalation driven by higher crude prices, along with longer lead times and higher logistics costs due to container shortages, port congestion, and extended transit cycles," he said.

"We are optimising routing and inventory where feasible, and building contingency plans," Mr. Bali added. He also said the operating environment was unpredictable, with potential for growth and inflationary shocks, although the current situation may seem manageable.

According to Prashant Gokhale, president, Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC), continued tensions will not only inflate input prices but also lead to critical shortages that impact production timelines and supply chain continuity.

The impact is most pronounced in MSMEs, which contribute nearly 30% to India's GDP and some 45% of manufacturing output. With limited pricing power, rising LPG prices – critical for foundries, heat treatment, and fabrication – are directly compressing margins. The general engineering sector faces rising input costs and extended lead times, while aerospace and precision manufacturing, though less energy-intensive, remain sensitive to supply chain reliability, according to G. Prakash, chairman, Manufacturing Expert Committee, BCIC.

D.R. Subramanyam, co-founder and managing director of S.L.N Technologies, a city-based electronic systems design and manufacturing company that specialises in strategic electronics for aerospace, defence, and industrial sectors, says the LPG shortage has severely hit producers and suppliers of mechanical enclosures for all kinds of electronics equipment, devices and racks for networking equipment.

The impact is most evident in MSMEs, which contribute nearly 30% to India's GDP

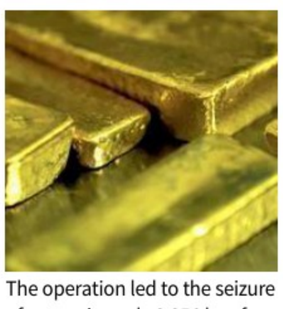
"Most of these suppliers rely on LPG for heating processes involved in surface coating, painting, powder coating of cabinets used for electronics equipment and products across various industries. Equipment and devices have to be housed somewhere; we can't sell them naked. As a result, the delay has more than doubled," said Mr. Subramanyam.

Mr. Prakash, who is also the director at ACE Designers Ltd. - Turning Centre Division, further stated that the most immediate disruption was visible in logistics; fuel scarcity and price spikes have led to 5 to 10% delays in transportation cycles in certain industrial corridors, affecting both inbound material flow and outbound dispatches.

He added that while the current phase reflected early stress rather than systemic disruption, a prolonged conflict could elevate inflation, moderate Index of Industrial Production (IIP) growth, and soften Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) momentum.

Gold smuggling racket busted at KIA; 5 held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



The operation led to the seizure of approximately 3.356 kg of high-purity gold. FILE PHOTO

In a major crackdown on international smuggling, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has busted a well-organised gold smuggling syndicate operating through the Kempegowda International Airport.

The operation, carried out over April 6 and 7 by the DRI's Bengaluru Zonal Unit, led to the seizure of approximately 3.356 kg of high-purity gold, valued at nearly ₹5 crore.

Acting on specific intelligence, DRI officials mounted a surveillance operation at Terminal-2 of the airport and intercepted members of the syndicate. The smuggled gold was cleverly concealed in paste form inside capsule-shaped packets, which were hidden on the bodies of the carriers.

Investigations revealed that the syndicate primarily used transit passengers, especially foreign nationals, who deliberately chose Bengaluru routes with longer layovers.

The handover of gold reportedly took place in sensitive zones like washrooms and smoking areas, using a pre-arranged passcode system.

A key revelation in the case was the involvement of an airport insider, who allegedly misused authorised access.

Preliminary findings indicate that the network has cross-border links, with suspected involvement of Bangladeshi nationals. So far, five individuals have been arrested, and further investigation is under way.

Man killed by wife's friend; accused arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 42-year-old man was brutally murdered and his body stuffed into a plastic sack before being dumped near an industrial area in Bommasandra.

The deceased has been identified as Sunil Nayak, 42. The police arrested the accused, Basudev Mallick, 30. Investigation revealed that the accused was in a relationship with the victim's wife, Pushpa. Basudev sought to kill Sunil Nayak so that he could continue his relationship with Pushpa.

On the day of the incident, he allegedly took Sunil along on the pretext of consuming alcohol. He then allegedly attacked him with a knife and murdered him. Afterwards, the accused reportedly disposed of the body by packing it in a plastic sack, before dumping it near the industrial area.

8 peddlers held; drugs worth ₹27.42 cr. seized

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a major crackdown on drug trafficking, the city police have arrested eight drug peddlers, including a foreign national, and have seized narcotics worth ₹27.42 crore from multiple locations across the city.

City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said that the coordinated operation was carried out by teams from Hebbagodi, Yelahanka, Mico Layout, Parappana Agrahara, and Bagalur Police. Acting on credible inputs, the police raided several locations and busted an inter-State and international drug network.

According to officials, the arrested include one foreign national, Emmanuel, 41, along with others from different States. The police have seized a total of 12 kg 91 grams of MDMA, 275 grams of cocaine, 34 kg 802 grams of ganja, and small quantities of gold and cash. Two vehicles and some mobile phones used in the crime were also recovered. In a major haul by the Hebbagodi Police, Emmanuel was caught with over 12.55 kg of MDMA, 275 grams of cocaine, and other materials worth more than ₹25.63 crore. Separate operations by the Yelahanka and Mico Layout Police led to the seizure of over 21 kg and 6.4 kg of ganja, respectively, and the arrest of additional accused persons.

Police said the accused sourced the drugs from international and inter-State suppliers and sold them to the public, including to college students, at high prices for quick profits. Investigators suspect the arrested were part of a larger network and are working to identify the kingpins behind the racket.

All eight accused have been produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody. Further investigation is under way to trace the supply chain and financial links.

BDA apartment owners form forum to raise concerns, improve engagement

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Apartment owners across multiple Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) housing projects have formed a collective platform, the BDA Apartments Owners Forum, to represent their concerns and improve engagement with the authority.

Members said the initiative focuses on concerns such as maintenance, delays in pending works, and the need for greater transparency in handover processes.

These issues, residents noted, have affected daily living, specifically for first-time homebuyers who have faced prolonged delays, incomplete infrastructure, and a lack of clarity in ownership transfer, often leading to financial strain.

The group said that collective engagement with the BDA has led to some progress already.

Currently, the group is working with the authority on facilitating the formation of apartment associations.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

E- Tender Notice No. SNT-GS-BKN-2025-26-09R Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti, N.W.Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works up to 15:00 Hrs on 30/04/2026 as below:- **S.No. 1. Tender No.:** SNT-GS-BKN- 2025-26-09R **Name of Work with its Location:** "S&T associated work in c/w provision of stabling lines, marshalling lines and sick/fit coaches lines in Hisar station over Bikaner Division" **Approx. Cost of Work:** Rs. 14127339.12 **Bid Security Amount (in Rs.):** Rs. 282600.00 **Date and Time for submission of tender & opening of tender:** Bidding start date on 16/04/2026 & Tender closing Date & time up to 15:00 Hrs on 30/04/2026. **Note:-** Other terms & conditions will be shown on the website **www.ireps.gov.in.** 501-AJ/26

Follow us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

संजय गांधी स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, लखनऊ
Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences
Raebareli Road Lucknow-226014 (U.P.)
Phones: 0522-2495842, 2494095

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow (hereinafter referred to as the **"Institute"**) is committed to providing efficient, state-of-the-art services for which efficient and skilled manpower having in-depth knowledge of their respective subjects is required.

The Institute offers postgraduate medical training and operates a tertiary-care referral hospital that provides affordable medical care. It caters to patients referred not only from the entire State of Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring States such as Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, and West Bengal, but also from across India and neighbouring countries including Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and several Middle Eastern countries. The Institute is also emerging as a destination for medical tourism.

This autonomous Institute is a University established by the **Government of Uttar Pradesh.** Located on a sprawling 550-acre campus, the Institute awards its own degrees, which are duly recognized by the **National Medical Commission.** It offers DM, MCh, MD, PhD, post-doctoral fellowships and post-doctoral certificate courses, senior residency in various specialties, as well as paramedical and allied health sciences programmes, including College of Nursing courses.

The Institute presently has **275 faculty members across 37 academic departments** engaged in teaching, training, patient care and research. To ensure optimal healthcare delivery, non-academic support wings such as paramedical services, hospital services, engineering, and ministerial/secretarial services provide essential inputs to the management of patient-care services.

The Institute is in the process of recruiting various categories of support staff and anticipates receiving approximately **1,00,000 applications** for the said examination. To facilitate this, the Institute intends to **empanel Government Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** for providing **Online Examination Services (Computer Based Test)** for conduct and processing of various examinations.

The Institute hereby invites **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)** from interested **Government PSUs** for empanelment for **"Online Examination Services (Computer Based Test): Conduct and Processing of Various Examinations of Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow."**

The relevant documents regarding Scope of work are available on the Institute's website **www.sgpgims.org.in.**

The interested Government PSUs are required to send their proposals, **addressed to the Director,** to the Institute through **Registered Post/Speed Post/Courier** to the following address **on or before 28.04.2026, 05:00 PM.**

RSD Cell, Room No. 101, Administrative Block,
Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences,
Lucknow- 226014, Uttar Pradesh

The Institute shall not be responsible for any postal delay and will not entertain any proposals received **after the prescribed date and time**.

Hence, those bidders who have submitted their offer against EOI ref. no. I/51/Contract Cell/Online Exam. Various Services/2025-26 dated 26.02.2026 need not to submit again.

The proposal so received shall be duly reviewed by the Institute, and invite the suitable Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for Power Point presentation on fixed date and time, which will be communicated separately.

Advt. No. I/01/Contract Cell/Online Exam. Various Services/2026-27
DIRECTOR

India's university research funding among lowest in the world: MP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

C.N. Manjunath, delivering the convocation address at the convocation of Karnataka Sanskrit University. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Research has taken a backseat due to a paucity of funds in almost all universities. The allocation of funds for research activities in universities is the lowest in India compared to the rest of the world, lamented C.N. Manjunath, Member of Lok Sabha from the Bangalore Rural Lok Sabha constituency.

Delivering the convocation address at the 12th and 13th convocations of Karnataka Sanskrit University, held here on Tuesday, he said, "It is imperative for both the State and the University Grants Commission to allocate sufficient funds for research activities. Without research, there is no progress, no innovation, and no new ideas. Research is the lifeline of discoveries and innovations. Without it, the learning process will become stagnant," Dr. Manjunath said.

He noted that Sanskrit was not just a language but "an expression of our highest moral values, ethics, and cultural heritage". It is a medium that teaches us not only how to speak but also how to live – a guiding force for a balanced, meaningful, and happy life. Historically, Sanskrit has been at the heart of India's intellectual and cultural evolution, he said. "It is truly the mother of many languages, influencing linguistic traditions across the world. Among the 22 languages recognised in the Constitution of India, it stands as one of the most ancient and foundational," he said.

At the convocation, 53 students were awarded gold medals instituted by various endowments for securing top ranks in different disciplines. A total of 36 research scholars were awarded PhD (Vidyavaridhi) degrees for successfully completing their research in various fields such as Sanskrit, Vedas, philosophy, literature, and yoga. Meanwhile, 917 students who passed undergraduate and postgraduate examinations during 2023-24 and 2024-25 were conferred degrees, including Shastri (B.A.), Acharya (M.A.), and M.Sc. in Yoga and Yoga Therapy.

Honorary D.Litt. degrees were conferred on six distinguished scholars for the academic years 2023-24 and 2024-25.

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ▪ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ▪ 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ▪ 2335700

PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, RUCHI Bhagat, W/o Dr.Asesh, R/a No.12, NAI Puniya Lyt, TC Palya Main Road, Bangalore-560036 hereby state that Ruchi Bhagat and Ruchi Kumari both the names belongs to one and the same person i.e., me only vide affidavit dt: 06.04.2026 sworn before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, B'lore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ABHISHEK Agarwal, s/o: Prem Prakash Agarwal, r/o: No–B108, 2nd Floor, BM Rosewood, Borewell Road, Whitefield, Blr–560066. Have Changed My Name As Abhishek Agrawal.

I, YASHUS Ravichandran, S/o Ravichandran Kongarapattu Radhakrishnan, R/at No.8/2, Sukruthi Nilaya, Lakshmipura Cross, Lakshmi Layout, Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru-560097, have changed my name from Yashus to Yashus Ravichandran vide Affidavit dated 27-03-2026 sworn before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, B'luru

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shaik Mahamood S/O, Abdul Rahaman R/o No 117/6 Flower Street Vgt Road Sidlaghatta Chickballpure Dist 562105 have changed my name to Shaik Mohamood for all purposes.

I, SHANTHI, W/o Kumar.B, R/at No.4137, 2nd Main Road, 2nd Cross, Subramanyanagar, Bengaluru-560021, have changed my name from Chikkamma to Shanthi Vide affidavit dated 03/04/2026 sworn before Notary K S Giridhar, Bengaluru.

SITUATION VACANT

HRD ADMN

WANTED MANAGER to look after a Large Company Estate situated in Hassan District, Karnataka.Candidates with minimum 10 years' Experience in Coffee may send their resume with relevant documents to-The Secretary, The Anaparai Estates Ltd., No. 72, 2nd Cross, Lavelle Road, Bangalore – 560 001 E-mail: asplantho@gmail.com

Making sense of the science in *Project Hail Mary* and its alien world

The film does a good job of reminding us that space is cool and science is Amaze! Amaze! Amaze!

Rudraa Abirami Sudarshan

Ryland Grace (Ryan Gosling) works with the alien 'Rocky' in a scene from 'Project Hail Mary'. AMAZON MGM STUDIOS/YOUTUBE

THE GIST

For the alien's planet, dubbed Erid, author Andy Weir decided that the atmosphere would be composed of ammonia and that the planet would have a very strong magnetic field

Rocky and his compatriots would have an environment suitable for living, albeit a very hot (210 °C) and high-pressure one

This is also why it is a miracle that Dr. Ryland Grace (Ryan Gosling) is not instantly killed when Rocky breaks out of his enclosure to save him

Extra-terrestrials have always been a fascinating subject for us humans. In the media, they have been portrayed from comically homicidal Martians in *Mars Attacks* to stoic Spock in *Star Trek* and the curious and childlike E.T. The latest to join the ranks of the non-earthling denizens of the universe is Rocky, the adorable rock-like Eridian from *Project Hail Mary*.

Rocky is unlike the humanoid lifeforms we have come across. He has five limbs, no face, no eyes, he uses echolocation to 'see', and speaks with musical chords. His 'skin' has a rock-like texture but is not rock. His species is far more intelligent than ours, with photographic memory and processing power surpassing human limitations, and is infinitely more empathetic. He's bound to make you go "Amaze! Amaze! Amaze!" – a refrain in the film – but where could Rocky have come from and is there a chance he could exist in real life?

A special star

In the film, Rocky hails from the star system 40 Eridani. To visit him with our current technology is impossible.

Even if you manage to cobble together a working starship, the star his planet orbits, 40 Eridani A, is 16.34 light years away, making a one way trip more than 2,80,000 years long if you travel at 17 kilometres per second.

But if you do visit Rocky, you could meet Spock as well: Vulcan also orbits 40 Eridani A.

What makes this star so special that we have not one but two alien species originating from there?

One of the main factors scientists look for when searching for potential extra-terrestrial life is a habitable zone: a band of space around a star where the conditions are just right for a planet to have liquid water on the surface, allowing life (as we know it) to evolve.

40 Eridani A does have a habitable zone 101.7 million km from it. Scientists had also glimpsed some evidence that there could be a planet orbiting the star but they haven't been able to confirm it exists. The same 'evidence' can also be explained by variations in the star's light output.

But if this planet exists, it also needs to have certain favourable conditions of its own to support life.

Life on Erid

From the information available on Rocky's home planet, dubbed Erid, it would be eight-times heavier than the earth and orbit 40 Eridani A once every 42 days. If it is also as dense as the earth, Erid could be a rocky planet with gravity twice as strong as our own. However, Erid would also be only 33 million km from 40 Eridani A, and its surface would be too hot to sustain liquid water: it would boil off.

The only way to circumvent this problem would be if the planet had a high atmospheric pressure, which in turn would increase the boiling point of water, and a strong magnetic field.

Since Erid is too close to its star, the chances are that its atmosphere will be blown away by stellar winds from 40 Eridani A unless it has a dense atmosphere like Venus.

Venus's atmosphere is made of carbon dioxide and nitrogen blanketed by clouds of sulphuric acid. This creates a strong greenhouse effect that increases the planet's temperature and pressure.

For Erid, author Andy Weir – whose book the film is based on – decided that the atmosphere would be composed of ammonia and that the planet would have a very strong magnetic field.

Senses for Eridians

Thus, Rocky and his compatriots would have an environment suitable for living, albeit a very hot (210 degree Celsius) and high-pressure one.

The star 40 Eridani A does have a habitable zone 101.7 million km from it. Scientists had also glimpsed some evidence that there could be a planet orbiting the star but they haven't been able to confirm it exists.

This is also why it is a miracle that Dr. Ryland Grace (Ryan Gosling) isn't instantly killed when Rocky breaks out of his enclosure to save him. The enclosure has conditions preserving those on Erid, for Rocky's sake, but between the high pressure ammonia gas and the heat flooding into the cockpit, Dr. Grace's lungs should have been destroyed. In the book, however, Rocky uses the airlock.

With such a thick atmosphere, Erid will also have low visibility, which is why Rocky's ship is so dark: he doesn't need 'eyes' to function. Eridians would then have to have evolved other senses to get around.

One of them is echolocation (like bats on the earth); another is that their rocky skin can 'hear' the vibrations that bounce off it.

The film also depicts an idyllic beach on Erid. It may not be a real beach so much as a specialised and temperature-controlled biosphere with perfect earth-like conditions inside.

Eating stars

Rocky isn't the only alien in the film. The Astrophage, who is the film's main antagonist, is also an extra-terrestrial lifeform. The Astrophage is like algae, except that it grows on the surface of stars instead of in the ocean. It is also a very efficient source of fuel.

But on the flip side, its energy consumption levels are so high that it is capable of draining our own sun, taking our world right back to the ice age.

But the Astrophage is also not very scientifically sound: it is able to store energy only because of a made-up phenomenon called "super-cross-sectionality".

Technically, us earthlings are also only one or two very-efficient fuel sources away from building our very own Starship Enterprise.

In the end, *Project Hail Mary* is still fictitious and requires more than a little suspension of disbelief to make certain things work. Nonetheless the film does a good job of reminding us that space is cool and science is amaze! Amaze! Amaze!

(Rudraa Abirami Sudarshan is an astrophysicist, science communicator, and journalist. rudraasudarshan@gmail.com)

BIG SHOT

A member of Saudi Arabia's state-run Saudi Falcons Club holds saker falcons before their release into the wild as part of a population restoration programme together with Kazakh partners, at Altyn-Emel National Park, Kazakhstan on March 29. REUTERS

QUESTION CORNER

Energy from space

Q: What is space-based solar power?

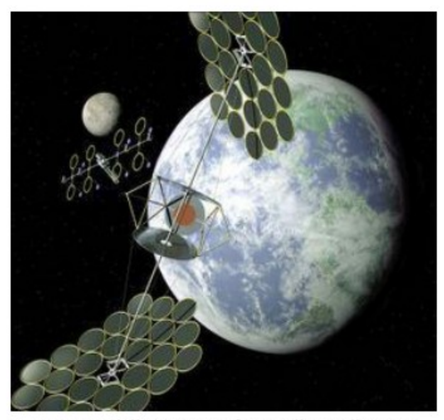
A: The Shimizu Corporation in Japan has proposed a belt of power plants sitting along the moon's equator, which is 11,000 km long, called the "Lunar Ring". According to the company's plans, robots can build this mega-structure from lunar soil. The facilities will collect solar energy from the sun and beam it to the earth as microwaves.

If space-based solar power sounds like science fiction, it is exactly that. The concept involves launching large arrays of satellites to collect sunlight 24/7, and beaming the energy to the earth as microwave radiation. The corporation's plans are slightly different — they involve facilities on the lunar surface rather than in earth orbit — but otherwise involve the same physics.

Unfortunately for supporters of the idea, there are daunting hurdles.

The cost of space-based solar is staggering. Even if rocket launch prices drop significantly, engineers must still transport thousands of tonnes of hardware into orbit (or the moon). Building a single functional power plant is an unprecedented logistical feat. Once operational, the system must beam power through the atmosphere, a process that will lose significant energy as heat.

In orbit, a single collision with space debris could cripple a billion-dollar array, turning it into junk. Maintenance will also be extremely expensive on the moon.



A conceptual illustration of a satellite collecting solar energy in earth orbit and beaming it down as microwaves. NASA

Terrestrial solar and battery storage are also getting cheaper and more efficient every year, making it hard to justify a complex and risky orbital or lunar facility. For now, space-based solar remains an idea trapped in poor economics.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

City set for 4,500 electric buses as BMTC tender nears award

The transport corporation is now awaiting final approval from the Karnataka government to issue Letters of Award

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru is set to see a major expansion of its electric bus fleet, with three manufacturers likely to be awarded contracts to supply and operate 4,500 e-buses under the Centre's PM e-Drive initiative. The Karnataka government has cleared the proposal to award the tender to the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), paving the way for the next stage of the process.

According to BMTC sources, a Mumbai-based firm has emerged as the lowest bidder in the air-conditioned bus segment across both categories. The company has quoted ₹70.65 per kilometre for 300 low-floor 12-metre buses and ₹60.94 per kilometre for 100 low-floor 9-metre buses.

BMTC currently operates a fleet of 6,982 buses, of which 1,754 are electric buses that operate under the Gross Cost Contract model. K. MURALI KUMAR

For the non-air-conditioned segment, a Gujarat-based company has quoted the lowest rate of ₹62.92 per kilometre for 3,500 low-floor 12-metre buses. Meanwhile, a Haryana-based firm has offered ₹55.55 per kilometre for 600 low-floor 9-metre buses, making it the lowest bidder in that category.

A senior official said the government would decide whether to proceed with the current bids or initiate negotiations

BMTC officials confirmed that these are the most competitive bids received so far. The corporation is now awaiting final approval from the State government to issue Letters of Award (LoA). A senior official said, "The government will decide whether to proceed with the current bids or initiate negotiations with the selected firms before finalising the contracts."

BMTC currently operates a fleet of 6,982 buses, of which 1,754 are electric buses that operate under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model. Under this system, private operators own and maintain the buses, while BMTC pays them based on the kilometres operated.

However, concerns have been raised about the performance of privately operated e-buses. In October 2025, Karnataka Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy wrote to Union Heavy Industries Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, highlighting issues such as frequent breakdowns, driver strikes, and safety risks, and sought the Centre's intervention.

Despite m-ticketing system, 11 held for selling IPL tickets in black

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Special Investigations Division of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) arrested 11 persons for allegedly selling Indian Premier League (IPL) match tickets in the black market during the high-profile clash between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Chennai Super Kings at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here.

Following the stampede in 2025 that killed 11 persons, one of the measures introduced was the m-ticketing system where tickets were sent to registered mobile numbers. This move was believed to root out tickets sold in black as well, as each ticket would now be traceable. The arrests by the CCB turned the spotlight on loopholes in the system.

Strict action will be taken against those engaging in illegal sale of tickets, say police

The operation was carried out on April 5 during the match, leading to the registration of seven cases across two police station limits. A total of 28 match tickets and eight mobile phones, collectively valued at ₹4.53 lakh, were seized from the accused.

According to the police, 10 persons were apprehended within the limits of the Cubbon Park Police Station.

The seized items from them included 18 IPL tickets of various denominations, seven mobile phones, and WhatsApp screenshot printouts allegedly used to facilitate illegal online ticket sales.

In a separate operation, one person was arrested under the jurisdiction of the Chamarajpet Police Station.

The police seized 10 IPL tickets, one mobile phone, and similar digital evidence indicating attempts to sell tickets at inflated prices.

Cases registered

Cases have been registered at both police stations, and further investigation is under way to identify the wider network involved in the black marketing of tickets.

An investigation is on to probe how these tickets were secured, and were being transferred to buyers.

Police officials reiterated that strict action will be taken against those engaging in illegal sale of tickets, especially during major sporting events that draw large crowds.

Student dies after fall from hostel building

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 21-year-old student died after allegedly falling from a hostel building in north Bengaluru in the early hours of Tuesday, raising suspicions of foul play.

The deceased has been identified as Laksh Mishra, a second-year B.Tech. student and a native of Ranchi in Jharkhand. He was pursuing his studies at a private college in Yelahanka.

The incident occurred around 3 a.m., when the student reportedly fell from the ninth floor of a hostel building located within the limits of Yelahanka New Town Police Station. He was rushed to a nearby hospital but was declared dead. The victim's father, Anjani Kumar Mishra, alleged foul play and demanded a thorough investigation. After reaching Bengaluru and seeing the body, he expressed doubts over the circumstances of the death.

"There was no reason for my son to take such an extreme step. I suspect foul play. The college management is hiding something," he said. The police have registered a case.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN at 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.)

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, APR. 08	
RISE 06:11	SET 18:32
RISE 23:55	SET 10:29
THURSDAY, APR. 09	
RISE 06:11	SET 18:32
RISE 00:00	SET 11:22
FRIDAY, APR. 10	
RISE 06:10	SET 18:32
RISE 00:44	SET 12:14

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	35	20
Bengaluru	35	23

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night also will be pleasant. Dry weather to occur.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2026
All rights reserved.

Head constable, associates booked for extortion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A shocking case of alleged police misconduct has surfaced in the city, where a head constable and his associates have been booked for running an extortion racket targeting college students by threatening them with false drug cases. According to the police, an FIR has been registered against a head constable attached to the Sanjaynagar Police Station, his associate Shiv Sagar, and another accused identified as Puneeth. The case came to light following a complaint filed by Thomas G. Kolath, a resident of Varthur.

As per the complaint, the accused would pose as police officials and target young college students

As per the complaint, the accused would pose as police officials and target young college students by threatening them with false drug cases or peddling cases and brought near the police station.

The complainant stated that on March 7, he received a call from a person claiming to be from the Mahalakshmi Layout Police Station, asking him to come to the station regarding a known person allegedly caught in a drug case. When he reached the location, he found several youths detained. The accused then allegedly demanded ₹4 lakh to release the person. After negotiations, ₹3 lakh was paid, following which the individual was let off. The complaint further revealed that the accused continued to threaten him and others, repeatedly demanding money by claiming to be police personnel. Investigations also indicate that the accused, along with local rowdies, targeted multiple college students, using intimidation tactics such as physical assault, planting drugs, and forcing them into illegal confinement.

Based on the complaint, a case has been registered, and the head constable has been taken into custody. Officials said the accused persons have been produced before a court, and further investigation is under way. Senior police officers have assured strict action against those involved and have stated that such incidents will be dealt with firmly.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

THE HINDU
OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL

KMCH Medical College
Invites applications from interested and eligible candidates for the position of
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

PROFESSORS	General Medicine, Surgery, ObGyn, Dermatology, Psychiatry, TB and Respiratory Medicine, Pharmacology, Forensic Medicine, Pediatrics
ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS	General Medicine, Surgery, ObGyn, Forensic Medicine, Pediatrics, Pharmacology, Dermatology, Anatomy, Anaesthesiology
ASSISTANT PROFESSORS	General Medicine, Surgical Gastroenterology, ObGyn, Anatomy, Forensic Medicine
SENIOR RESIDENTS	General Medicine, ICU, Forensic Medicine, ObGyn, Anatomy
JUNIOR RESIDENTS	MBBS Graduates

All the above positions are as per NMC norms.

DEPUTY & ASSISTANT NURSING SUPERINTENDENT
Qualification: M.Sc., / B.Sc.
Experience: 10 years as staff nurse and more than 3 to 5 years as administrator
To be positioned in KMCH group of Hospitals

Interested candidates may mail their resume to info@kmchihsr.edu.in with credentials and references within 7 days.
KMCH INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND RESEARCH
(A unit of KOVAI MEDICAL CENTER & HOSPITAL LTD)
99-A, Avanashi Road, Coimbatore - 641 014 | www.kmchihsr.edu.in

WESMARC DOORS TECHNIK PVT. LTD.
BANGALORE
"Elevate Your Door Experience to European Standards"
MANUFACTURING NEXT-GENERATION SUPER DOORS, THE COMPANY IS LOOKING FOR:

Regional Head - Karnataka (BLR) & Regional Head -TN-1 (CHN)
The candidates should be Senior Project sales professionals with at least 15 years in premium building products and strong connections with Builders and Architects. Experience in team handling is a must.

Sr. ASMs – Project sales: BLR, MYS, HYD, PUN, CHN, CBE
Smart ambitious graduates, around 35 years, with min 10 years hard core sales experience in B2B premium building products, and having strong connections with Builders and Architects.

Head Installations (Doors) – Bangalore
Based at Bangalore, the candidate will head a team of 15 Supervisors and over 30 installers in south Indian cities. Around 40, the candidate must have min of 15 years' experience in handling a team of installers in building projects.

Sales Executives – Bangalore
Smart graduates under 30, with experience in building material sales.

OFFERING EXCITING PACKAGES, ATTRACTIVE INCENTIVES & EXCELLENT GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES.
Please mail your CV to: careers@wesmarcdoors.com

WANTED
FOR OUR SHOWROOMS IN KERALA
BUSINESS MANAGER
Drive sales growth and coordinate with internal teams to achieve business targets. Experience in managing sales in a fast-paced environment.
ASSISTANT SHOWROOM MANAGER
Oversee daily showroom operations and customer service, coordinating maintenance work, ensuring smooth coordination across all departments and day-to-day activities.
QUALIFICATIONS
Graduate with 5+years in retail / textile management; Strong leadership, Team building Skills, Efficient communication and customer engagement Skills.
Jayalakshmi®
NH BYPASS KOCHI | 16TH TO 30TH APRIL | +91-96455 19811 | careers@jayalakshmi.in

NTPC Green Energy Limited
(A Subsidiary of NTPC Limited)
Reg. Office: NTPC Bhawan, SCOPE Complex, 7, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003
Advt. No. 01/26
NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL), a subsidiary of NTPC Ltd. has presence in the renewable power and hydrogen generation business. Commensurate with our country's growth challenges, the company has embarked upon an ambitious plan to attain a total installed capacity of 60 GW by 2032.
To fuel its ambitious growth plans, NGEL is looking for **experienced professionals for Renewable Energy area** as per details given below:

Name of the Post	Vacancies	Grade / Pay Scale for Recruitement
Deputy General Manager - RE	14	E6 / IDA (Rs. 90,000/- – 2,40,000/-)
Deputy General Manager - Finance	02	E6 / IDA (Rs. 90,000/- – 2,40,000/-)
Assistant Manager - RE	28	E2 / IDA (Rs. 50,000/- – 1,60,000/-)
Assistant Manager - Finance	02	E2 / IDA (Rs. 50,000/- – 1,60,000/-)

How to Apply: Interested eligible candidates may visit the career section of our website www.ngel.in for viewing detailed eligibility criteria, qualification, experience requirement, remuneration details & full text of advertisement for applying. Only online mode of application will be accepted. Any further addendum/corrigendum/updates will only be published on our website.
Start date of online application 15.04.2026 (From 10:00 Hrs)
Last date of online application 05.05.2026 (Till 23:59 Hrs)

राष्ट्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान राउरकेला
National Institute of Technology Rourkela
FACULTY RECRUITMENT
NIT Rourkela, an Institute of National Importance under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India invites online applications for various faculty positions vide **Recruitment Advt. No. NITR/ES/02/2026**.

Sl. No.	Position	Pay Level	Vacancy
1	Assistant Professor Grade II	10	Total Vacancy - 86
2	Assistant Professor Grade I	12	
3	Associate Professor	13A2	
4	Professor	14A	

Please visit the Career section of NIT Rourkela website http://www.nitrkl.ac.in for detailed advertisement and application form.
Closing Date - 22/04/2026
Sd/-
Registrar

To Advertise in
The Hindu Opportunities column,
Please contact,
gurunathareddy.s@thehindu.co.in or
Ph: 9845529981

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Crops damaged due to unseasonal rains in Maharashtra

2.05 in lakh hectares. Unseasonal rains and hailstorms have damaged crops on more than 2.05 lakh hectares of land in Maharashtra, officials from the agriculture department said on Tuesday. According to preliminary estimates, crops on 1.22 lakh hectares were damaged in the second half of March, and 82,704 hectares in early April. PTI

Flights cancelled by Indian carriers to West Asia since war began

10,000 Over 10,000 flights by Indian carriers to West Asia have been cancelled since the war broke out in the region, a senior civil aviation ministry official said on Tuesday. Flights to West Asia by Indian carriers have come down to around 80-90, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Asangba Chuba Ao, said. PTI

U.K.'s cap on interest rates for student loans from September 2026

6 in per cent. Britain said on Tuesday that it would cap interest rates on millions of student loans at 6 per cent from September 2026, saying conflict in West Asia risked pushing up inflation and sharply increasing borrowing cost. The student loan system in England and Wales has drawn criticism and Prime Minister Keir Starmer had said that he would look at ways to make it fairer. REUTERS

Number of weeks for which TRP reporting has been withheld

4 The government has extended for four weeks its order to withhold the reporting of Television Rating Points (TRPs) for TV news channels to "curb display of sensationalism and speculative content" amidst the West Asia conflict. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had on March 6 issued the first directive to Broadcast Audience Research Council to withhold reporting of the TRPs. PTI

The share of women in the electoral roll of Assam

49.98 in per cent. Women nearly equal their male counterparts in the electoral rolls of Assam and outnumber them in 16 out of the 35 districts, but they constitute a mere 59 out of the 722 candidates in the fray for the Assembly polls. Women outnumber men in campaign rallies and meetings. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu X.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

On India's updated climate pledges

India's announcement of its revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement prompts scrutiny of its existing climate mitigation actions and the need to factor in the country's developmental costs alongside those of meeting its climate commitments

FULL CONTEXT

T. Jayaraman

India's announcement of its revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement – the term applied to the mitigation and other climate action targets that countries voluntarily commit to under the agreement – represents a considered step forward when India's energy and development policies are encountering serious headwinds. It is clear that the government has opted for continuity and incremental advance with respect to India's earlier NDCs. It is also clearly confident that its commitments will nevertheless be more than adequate in relation to its equitable share of global climate action, in keeping with climate justice and within its expected commitments as a developing nation.

Three climate goals

As the press communique after the Cabinet approval of the updated NDCs noted, there are three specific enhancements that have been committed. The first is an increase in the reduction of emissions intensity of its GDP, from 45% below 2005 levels by 2030 to 47% below 2005 levels by 2035. The second is ensuring that 60% of installed capacity for power generation is from non-fossil fuel sources, while the third is the enhancement of forest and tree cover carbon sinks to 3.5 - 4 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent above 2005 levels.

India's climate policies are best understood in the context of its structural constraints as a lower middle income developing country, that determine its available choices for climate action. Over the last three decades, these constraints have not substantially changed, which is also why India continues to insist on the relevance of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). But apart from these, given the structure of the Paris Agreement that requires renewed and enhanced commitments to climate mitigation every five years, short-term considerations have also begun to have a considerable weight in the formulation of the NDCs. The rapid deterioration of the global environment for climate action over the last year has undoubtedly brought this issue to the fore.

Enthusiasm for climate action

Structural constraints have not, however, dampened enthusiasm for climate action in India, both at the level of the Centre and the State governments. There is a considerable range of activities designed to set India on the path to low-carbon development, drawing significant public and private sector efforts and resources, including electric vehicles, enhancement of energy efficiency, promotion and deployment of non-fossil fuel sources of electricity generation, new technologies such as green hydrogen and more recently, the active promotion of carbon capture and storage efforts.

But given India's developmental levels today, it is clearly premature for India to convert all such efforts into the significantly more onerous and accountable commitments that are the NDCs, the progress towards which is to be reported every two years in the Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) to the UNFCCC.

A section of global and domestic public opinion has raised the issue of the adequacy of India's NDCs relative to a global temperature goal of 1.5 degree warming above pre-industrial levels (the more ambitious part of the Paris Agreement's goals). Some have downplayed the new targets, one commentator going so far as to call it "a walk in the park". Others call for increased generation from renewables as the metric and not installed capacity. Even some sections of opinion that have welcomed the NDCs, appear nevertheless to be uncertain on whether these new commitments are genuinely the best that India can make at this time.

A drone view of solar panels and the NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) power plant in Solapur, Maharashtra. REUTERS

The cost of going green

All the above variants of the "India can (must) do more argument" ignore some critical realities that contextualise India's climate actions. Given that India's natural energy source is overwhelmingly coal, it is inaccurate to view improvements in emissions efficiency of GDP and the corresponding bending of its emissions trajectory as a "natural" corollary of India's growth story. Priority to electricity from renewable sources comes with significant costs, including backing down readily available and often cheaper or comparably priced coal-based thermal power, further tilting a playing field that privileges renewable energy to sustain our climate commitments.

Renewable energy (RE) projects including utility scale battery storage have begun to make their appearance in India's power sector. But the corresponding scaling up of India's battery storage capacity, required for ensuring the stability of generation even from the proposed 2030 RE targets will run into a few trillion rupees at least. Part of such expansion would have to be funded by the government, deploying resources that would have been utilised in other sectors. At the very least, the deployment of such large-scale battery systems is not immediately feasible. The most globally widespread option of energy storage in reverse pumped hydropower systems, has very limited scope in India at present. Additionally, environmental concerns, and water needs for competing uses such as irrigation, as well as the regulatory challenges faced by all large hydro projects are likely to preclude any rapid expansion.

Optimistic RE projections, not only in India but even globally, have run into the lack of transmission capacity and the challenges of grid balancing, with the associated costs often omitted when referring to the cost-effectiveness of RE power.

Since, for India, coal is the mainstay of power generation when solar and wind cease, unlike the large-scale gas and hydro available elsewhere, the full utilisation of the available RE capacity will inevitably have to be "curtailed", while adding to the operation and maintenance costs for thermal power operated in this cyclical fashion. These add further to the true cost that India bears for the pursuit of its climate commitments.

Improving energy efficiency in other sectors is also being pursued vigorously, including the introduction of mandatory emissions intensity targets in key industries. The early ramp up of electric vehicles, while the jump from BSIV to BSVI vehicle emissions standards was just coming into place, was another leap-frog moment, whose cost to the economy must not be underestimated. Since the 26th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change at Glasgow, every Central government budget has seen a range of initiatives and resource commitment across various aspects of climate mitigation. Indeed, a major knowledge gap today is that while future costs of increased mitigation action are routinely calculated, the cost burden attached to India's mitigation initiatives undertaken so far, in the absence of any significant climate finance, have yet to be estimated in a reliable manner.

Accounting for India's developmental future

At a more over-arching level, India's mitigation challenge cannot be based on a simple extrapolation of the current structural features and trends of its economy.

India's developmental future needs room for further large-scale growth in manufacturing and industry, expansion in the provision of goods and services to its population at adequate levels beyond the minimum, and an urban transition that has only just begun. In this context, the "India can do more" arguments that rely on such extrapolation of economic trends and the persistence of current structural features, miss the urgent need to hedge India's developmental future.

India cannot commit its NDCs to preserving the Paris Agreement goal of limiting global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels, when the goal is rapidly slipping out of reach. This a trend that India cannot reverse, given that its per capita emissions are a third of the global average. Even otherwise, under the voluntary emissions reduction NDCs of the Paris Agreement, the benefits of India's reduction in emissions below any business-as-usual baseline, are distributed primarily to the big emitters globally, due to their inadequate efforts, and proportionately less to India, especially when the largest historical emitter has walked out of all climate treaties and seeks to dismantle climate action both at home and abroad

India's climate commitments have to be strategic and circumspect, while its NDCs are formulated in informed self-awareness of its, to use the language of the Paris Agreement, "national circumstances."

(T. Jayaraman is with the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru. Views expressed are personal.)

THE GIST

- India's climate policies are best understood in the context of its structural constraints as a lower middle-income developing country, which shape its choices for climate action.
- The country has implemented several decarbonisation initiatives, including electric vehicles, deployment of non-fossil fuel power sources, and technologies such as green hydrogen.
- However, India needs room for further large-scale growth in manufacturing and industry, which must be factored in alongside the future costs of its climate commitments.

Public campaigning for bypolls in Bagalkot and Davangere concludes

Door-to-door campaigning has been allowed to go on till Wednesday

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI/ HUBBALLI

Public campaigning for the byelections to Bagalkot and Davangere South Assembly constituencies concluded on Tuesday evening, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and other leaders making last-minute efforts to woo voters. On the concluding day, Bagalkot saw more action than Davangere, with Mr. Siddaramaiah accompanied by Ministers Shivanand Patil and others campaigning for Congress candidate Umesh Meti by attending a convention of the Panchamasali Lingayat community.

Meanwhile, former Ministers Govind Karjol, B. Sriramulu, and N. Mahesh were seen canvassing for the BJP candidate Viranna Charantimath.

In Davangere South, it was Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar who led the Congress campaign through a roadshow and he was accompanied by Minister M.C. Sudhakar.

The Congress had roped in former Indian cricket captain and Telangana Minister Mohammad Azharuddin to campaign for party candidate Samarth Mallikarjun.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar during an election rally in Davangere on Tuesday. Telangana Minister Mohammad Azharuddin and others are present. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In stark contrast to Bagalkot, no prominent leaders of the BJP were seen campaigning on the last day in Davangere.

BJP candidate Srinivas T. Dasakariyappa along with some local leaders was seen canvassing on the last day as the party leaders had left Davangere on Monday night itself.

The remarks of Ministers G. Parameshwara and B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan on Mr. Siddaramaiah's tenure as Chief Minister on the penultimate day again brought to the fore the tussle for power between the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister which was buried for some time.

Meanwhile speaking to presspersons in Bengaluru, Leader of Opposition in Legislative Assembly R. Ashok has claimed that the bypoll would expose the "real face of the Congress", which he said, was trying to turn minorities into a vote bank.

While the public campaign ended at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, door-to-door campaign is allowed to be continued on Wednesday.

The bypoll has been necessitated by the demise of former Ministers H.Y. Meti and Shamanur Shivashankarappa. Polling will be held on April 9 and votes will be counted on May 4.

ECI takes exception to release of instalment for guarantee schemes; DKS hits back

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While the Election Commission of India (ECI) has sought explanation from the State government over the release of funds to the five guarantee schemes citing the Model Code of Conduct, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar termed it as "an attack on the poor and unemployed" and accused the BJP of conspiring to block the guarantee schemes.

"Our government has implemented schemes that have become a model in the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the Congress has not implemented the schemes. I thought that those in higher position would have information about it. Though he criticised our schemes, the BJP has copied our schemes in other States," Mr. Shivakumar told presspersons at Davangere.

On April 2, the Election Commission of India took exception to the release of funds to beneficiaries of guarantee schemes in Davangere and Bagalkot districts. FILE PHOTO

His reaction came to a letter from the ECI to the Chief Secretary over the release of funds to five guarantee schemes.

On April 2, the ECI took exception to the release of funds to beneficiaries of Gruha Jyoti, Anna Bhagya, Gruha Lakshmi, Yuva Nidhi, and Shakti in Davangere and Bagalkot districts, where the byelections are being held in two constituencies.

The ECI in the letter said, "While the MCC period is in force, no fresh release of funds on welfare schemes should be made without prior approval of the ECI."

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the mask of the BJP, which has been trying to stop the schemes for women and unemployed, has slipped.

"This is not a scheme implemented for this election. It is a scheme being implemented for the past two-and-a-half years and on which ₹1.25 lakh crore has been spent. This letter is a proof of the BJP's conspiracies. The BJP is at the forefront to stop the schemes that are being implemented to provide relief to people affected by price rise."

Creating confusion

While the ECI has asked the Chief Secretary to provide details on the release of funds in both districts in which these ACs fall, for these five schemes with the name of officer concerned who sanctioned such release of funds, Mr. Shivakumar said, "The instalments for the scheme has been released till last month. This month's instalment would be released after elections. There is no need worry over stopping of guarantee schemes. We are committed to our promise. Those who are creating confusionj will not win election."

Power transfer: 'Only CM's and my words count'

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday categorically stated that barring his and the Chief Minister's words, remarks by anyone else on the issue of transfer of power did not carry any weight.

Speaking to presspersons at Hubballi airport on Tuesday, Mr. Shivakumar said, "I am the KPCC president. On the issue of transfer of power, only my statements and that of the Chief Minister count. Words of anyone else do not carry any weight."

Mr. Shivakumar declined to comment on the statement of Home Minister G. Parameshwara that Mr. Siddaramaiah will complete his full term as Chief Minister.

Replying to a query, the Deputy Chief Minister told reporters not to trouble themselves over the issue. On the speculations about him becoming the Chief Minister after the byelection, Mr. Shivakumar said that "time would answer everything."

Mr. Shivakumar who campaigned in Davangere and Bagalkot, said that the Congress would win both the seats.

He said that people were content with the government's programmes as they had implemented five guarantee schemes to extend help to the people who were affected by the price rise. The BJP was silent on the price rise and the Union government had not provided any relief to the people, he said.

State urges Maharashtra govt. to give Kannada option in TET

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has urged the Maharashtra government to provide an option for candidates to appear for the Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) in Kannada medium also for those who are serving in Kannada-medium schools in Maharashtra.

In view of the TET being held on April 16, it has sought urgent intervention in this regard.

With the Supreme Court mandating all serving teachers to clear the TET by 2027 to ensure job security, the Maharashtra government has issued Kannada-medium school teachers recruitment notification to fill up vacancies in Kannada-medium schools of Maharashtra.

Sources said that there were about 2,000 teachers who are writing the exam, but do not know Marathi.

Karnataka's Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, in a letter to her Maharashtra counterpart Rajesh Agarwal, has said that the current-unavailability of TET in Kannada medium has caused significant distress and professional uncertainty among those serving as Kannada medium teachers in these schools.

"These linguistic minority students and teachers come under the protection of constitutional provision of Articles 30, 347, 350, 350A and 350B," she added.

She pointed out that there was around 377 Kannada-medium schools with 44,860 students in Jatta, Akkalkot, Dakshin Solapur where about 80% linguistic minority Kannadigas live.

Karnataka High Court partially invalidates amended law on appeals in land mutation disputes

The Hindu Bureau
Bengaluru

Partially striking down a recent amendments made to the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, creating another layer of appeal before the Karnataka Appellate Tribunal (KAT), the High Court of Karnataka said that the additional layer of appeal would now be applicable only in respect of "original orders" passed under Section 136(3) of the Act by the Deputy Commissioners or Special Deputy Deputy Commissioners.

The court struck down the new provision, which has created an appeal before the KAT prior to filing petition before the High Court, challenging the "revisional orders" passed by the Deputy Commissioners or the Special Deputy Commissioners.

Justice R. Devdas passed the order on a batch of petitions filed by Somashekaraiah and others challenging the amendment brought to Section 136(1) of the KLR Act, 1956.

What State govt. said

The State government had argued that the change was necessary to reduce the burden on the High Court by channeling disputes through the KAT. However, petitioners had contended that the amendment would create endless litigation on disputes over land records like mutation entries.

However, the High Court observed that the amendment with regard to appeal before the KAT on "revisional orders" runs contrary to a 1996 Supreme Court ruling, which held that a revision cannot lie if a second appeal has been filed, and also judgment of a Full Bench of the High Court which had established three-tier mechanism for adjudication of such disputes.

Meanwhile, the court clarified that an order passed by the Assistant Commissioner under Section 136(2) of the Act may either be appealable or revisable before the Deputy Commissioner.

Revision petitition

The court also made it clear that an option would also available for an aggrieved party to file a revision petition before the KAT under Section 56 of the Act, if no appeal or revision is preferred before the Deputy Commissioner in respect of an order passed by the Assistant Commissioner.

Lokayukta conducts raids across Karnataka

Lokayukta raids

Officers raided	Estimated alleged DA in ₹crore as per Lokayukta Police
G.K. Revan Kumar, AE, PWD, Mysuru	3.27
Ajaysing Bapusing Rajaput, AEE, DC Office, Belagavi	3.78
Babu B.N., Assistant Drug Controller, Mangaluru	3.37
Susheelamma H.G. Accounts Asst., Chitradurga	8.2
Shobha K.R., district officer, Devaraju Ars Backward Community Welfare Department, Shivamogga	3.88
Shivanna, Asst. Director, Fisheries Dept. Ballari	1.93
Suresh K.L., retired in-charge Comptroller, Karnataka Veterinary Science and Fisheries University, Bidar	3.42
I.K. Puttaswamy, I/C Executive Engineer, Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Ltd, Kodagu	2.4

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Lokayukta police carried out simultaneous raids across the State on Tuesday in connection with disproportionate assets (DA) cases registered against eight government officials.

The searches were conducted under the jurisdictions of the Lokayukta police units in Mysuru, Belagavi, Mangaluru, Chitradurga, Shivamogga, Ballari, Bidar, and Kodagu.

According to officials, raids were carried out at over 35 locations, including residences, offices, and properties belonging to relatives of the accused officers.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused officials had allegedly amassed assets disproportionate to their known sources of income, with a combined value of approximately ₹36.9 crore.

In recognition of Basavanna's ideology, State of Kansas proclaims April 20 as 'Basava Day'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State of Kansas in the U.S. has recognised the ideology of Karnataka's 12th century social reformer Basavanna by proclaiming April 20, Basava Jayanti, as "Basava Day" in Kansas. The proclamation was made by Kansas Governor Laura Kelly.

The proclamation said: "Basava Day honours the birth and teachings of Jagadguru Basavanna, also known as Basava, a 12th century Indian philosopher and a social reformer who was said to have been a mystic by temperament, an idealist by choice, a statesman by profession, a man of letters by taste, a humanist by sympathy, and a social reformer by conviction, whose message continues to inspire people around the world."

It also observes that Basava's vision remains highly relevant today of a just society, free from all discrimination.

A release by Sateesh Kavi, who represents Kansas city's Basava Group, an organisation dedicated to promoting the values of Basava, said: "We are deeply honored by Governor Kelly's recognition of Basava Day. This proclamation celebrates the vibrant contributions of the Lingayat community and the broader Indian-American diaspora to the cultural fabric of Kansas."

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that I, Suhas B. Rao, son of B.R.Rao, residing at H. No. 10-2-272/2A, Swathi, West Marredpally, Secunderabad – 500 026, Telangana, am the absolute owner of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

The schedule property was acquired by me under a Gift Deed dated 31.08.2021 registered as Doc.No.BMH-1-03081-2021-22 in CD No.BMHD1426 in the Office of the Sub Registrar, Bommanahalli, (Jayanagar), Bangalore.

My mother had purchased the same under a Sale Deed dated 31.05.2004 from its previous owners registered as Document No. JAY-1-01084/2004-05 in CD No.JAYD20 in the office of the Sub Registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore.

I hereby wish to inform the general public that the above mentioned sale deed dated 31.05.2004 has been misplaced and the same is not traceable despite best efforts. I have also lodged a police complaint in this regard.

In case any person/s were to find it or come into possession of the above said document, they shall not be entitled to deal with the schedule property in any manner whatsoever. However, they may kindly return the original document to me at the address mentioned herein below.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing No.332/7, earlier numbered as 7, (old No.332) situated at 14th Cross, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, Corporation Ward No.50, Bangalore and measuring East to West 80 feet and North to South 120 feet in all measuring 9600 sq.ft and bounded on the:

East : Site No. 331
West : 7th Main Road
North : Site No. 333 and No. 334
South : 15th Cross Road

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

Unit No. T-302, in the Third Floor, of the building known as "SURAJ GANGA ARCADE" constructed on the Schedule 'A' property with a super built up area of 600 sq. ft., together with all common areas attributable thereto. The unit is constructed with bricks and cement, RCC roof, flush doors, steel windows, mosaic flooring along with 224 sq. ft. undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' property and the unit is bounded on the :

East by : Passage
West by : Road
North by : Unit No. T-303
South by : Lift and Staircase

Suhas B Rao
Address: H.No. 10-2-272/2A, Swathi, West Marredpally, Secunderabad-500 026, Telangana

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP portal)

Karnataka Housing Board has invited tenders KPP portal for Appointment of Project Management Consultants (PMC) for **Development of Site & Services at Thylagere Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.**

Notification No. **CE/Thylagere/PMC/Sites & Services/ KHB/2026-27/SE0375, Date: 06.04.2026.**

Last date for submission of bid is on **21.04.2026 upto 4.00 pm.**

For further information, contact below mentioned Office Address:
Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.
Telephone No.: 080-22273511
Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/YC/95/2026-27 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, KHB, Bengaluru**

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tenders from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned works.

RIDF Tranch-31 for Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services Construction of Veterinary Dispensary/Hospital/Primary Veterinary Center at Various places for Veterinary department.

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1	With in Bidar, Yadgir & Kalaburagi District. **Work Indent No.** KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 722/CALL-2 & IFT No: 165/2025-26 Date: 04.04.2026. **Amount put to tender:** Rs. 2,64,47,571/-.
2	With in Raichur, Vijayanagara & Vijayapura District. **Work Indent No.** KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 723/CALL-2 & IFT No: 166/2025-26 Date: 04.04.2026. **Amount put to tender:** Rs. 2,26,79,261/-.
3	With in Haveri district. **Work Indent No.** KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 724/CALL-2 & IFT No: 168/2025-26 Date: 04.04.2026. **Amount put to tender:** Rs. 3,03,33,030/-.
4	With in Uttara Kannada district. **Work Indent No.** KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 725/CALL-2 & IFT No: 169/2025-26 Date: 04.04.2026. **Amount put to tender:** Rs. 2,27,44,433/-.
5	With in Davanagere district. **Work Indent No.** KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 717/CALL-2 & IFT No: 161/2025-26 Date: 04.04.2026. **Amount put to tender:** Rs. 1,51,62,162/-.
6	With in Haveri district. **Work Indent No.**KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 721/CALL-2 & IFT No: 167/2025-26 Date: 04.04.2026. **Amount put to tender:** Rs. 1,51,61,345/-.
7	With in Dharwad district. **Work Indent No.**KHB/2025-26/BD/work_indent 729/CALL-2 & IFT No: 173/2025-26 Date: 04.04.2026. **Amount put to tender:** Rs.1,89,34,128/-.

Last date for submission of bid: 13.04.2026 upto 4.00 PM

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/82/AKAR/2026-27 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru**

KEYWORD

United Nations peacekeepers with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon drive past firefighters clearing the road at the site of an overnight Israeli airstrike in the area of Naqoura in southern Lebanon on March 27. AFP

Talking peace: why mediation still matters in a world at war

With the war in West Asia in its second month, discussions on mediation have gained prominence. History is replete with instances of mediation, with individuals and states helping conflicting parties reach agreement, alongside the development of international conventions

Dhananjay Tripathi
Tabshir Shams

Conflict resolution is an integral component of international relations, both in the academic and general sense. With the war in West Asia entering its second month, discussions around mediation have gained prominence. A significant section of the international community is keen on bringing a resolution to end this war. Although the possibility of mediation in the Iran conflict is shrouded in ambiguity, the debate intensified following reports suggesting a potential role for Pakistan. Without delving into the specifics of Pakistan's involvement, which still remain unclear, it is more useful to examine what mediation is and why it continues to be a relevant and effective tool for conflict resolution.

Understanding mediation

Mediation has deep historical roots, with one of the earliest recorded instances dating back nearly 4000 years, when the Sumerian king Mesilim mediated a dispute between the city-states of Lagash and Umma. Despite its long history, mediation remains a complex process, and scholars have offered diverse perspectives on its dynamics. One of the most influential contributions is by Jacob Bercovitch, who developed the Contingency Model of mediation. Based on empirical research, he argued that the success of mediation depends on multiple factors, like the nature of the parties, the characteristics of the dispute, and the role and capabilities of the mediator. He emphasised that effective mediators must possess credibility as well as personal attributes such as communication skills, intelligence, and patience.

Another major contribution is by I. William Zartman, who introduced the 'theory of Ripeness'. According to Zartman, mediation becomes effective only when a conflict is "ripe" for resolution, particularly when parties face a 'Mutually Hurting Stalemate'. The Lancaster House Agreement (1979), which led to Zimbabwe's independence, illustrates this dynamic, as negotiations occurred when all parties had reached such a stalemate. Additionally, the concept of biased mediation challenges the assumption of neutrality. It suggests that mediators can be effective precisely because of their power and leverage, enabling them to offer incentives or exert pressure on conflicting parties to reach an agreement.

Legal position on mediation

The Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, which led to the adoption of the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes, marked a significant step in the development of mediation as a diplomatic practice. They promoted the peaceful resolution of conflicts by encouraging the use of mediation, good offices, and arbitration, and by legitimising third-party involvement in disputes. The conventions also established the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), providing an institutional mechanism for arbitration. While they did not fully codify mediation as binding international law, they laid the normative and institutional groundwork that later influenced the dispute resolution frameworks of the League of Nations and the United Nations.

The United Nations framework provides important principles and guidance for mediation, particularly through the UN Charter, which emphasises the peaceful settlement of disputes, and through various resolutions supporting mediation practices. Chapter VI of the UN Charter provides the framework for the peaceful settlement of disputes. Article 33 explicitly calls upon parties to resolve disputes through peaceful means such as negotiation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, or other agreed methods. The United Nations has further strengthened the role of mediation through General Assembly Resolution 65/283 (2011), which emphasises its importance in conflict prevention and resolution and calls for enhanced mediation capacity. This was complemented by the UN Guidance for Effective Mediation (2012), which outlines key principles, including preparedness, consent, impartiality, inclusivity, national ownership, coordination, and the need for implementable agreements. In practice, the UN and its affiliated actors have facilitated numerous mediation efforts across conflicts worldwide. Additionally, since 1948, the UN has undertaken over 70 peacekeeping missions, with around a dozen active operations in recent years, often working alongside mediation initiatives to maintain international peace and security.

Instances of mediation

There are several good examples of individuals and states playing an important role in mediation; however, success relates to their stature. For instance, Kofi Annan's mediation in Kenya in 2008 helped prevent further instability and led to a power-sharing agreement. Mediation at times, opens channels of communication that are often absent during conflict, as seen in Norway's role in facilitating the Oslo backchannel negotiations between Israel and Palestine.

Mediation also creates political space for negotiation, witnessed in the Camp David Accords (1978), where the U.S. suceeded in bringing Egypt and Israel together, despite deep hostility. It can reshape perceptions of conflict, as in the Colombian Peace Process (2016), where political solutions gained prominence over military approaches.

Furthermore, mediation helps manage time and information, as evidenced by the tightly controlled U.S.-led negotiations of the Dayton Agreement (1995) in Bosnia. Mediation also relates to trust between parties, as demonstrated in the Good Friday Agreement (1998), mediated by former U.S. senator George Mitchell. Finally, mediation provides opportunities for face-saving, allowing conflicting parties to enter negotiations without appearing weak, which is often critical for successful conflict resolution.

On the West Asian crisis

Drawing on the theoretical insights of Bercovitch and Zartman, it can be argued that while media reports suggest that Islamabad may serve as a venue for dialogue between the U.S. and Iran, this should not be interpreted as Pakistan playing the sole mediatory role. Mediation processes in international conflicts are often multi-layered, involving several actors and countries like Turkiye and Egypt are also reportedly engaged in facilitating dialogue.

Moreover, Pakistan's close strategic ties with the United States may limit its credibility as a neutral mediator in the eyes of Iran. Instead, Iran is likely to prefer a relatively more independent and influential actor. In this context, China emerges as a strong choice for Iran. As a major importer of Iranian oil and a country with significant economic investments in Iran, China holds considerable leverage. It also facilitated the 2023 rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia, that adds to its credibility as a mediator.

Additionally, China's consistent anti-war stance and its broader economic and political influence in international affairs, position it as a capable and acceptable intermediary. An early resolution of the conflict is desirable. However, all will depend on the strategic calculation of the U.S. and Iran and their willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue.

(Dhananjay Tripathi is an Associate Professor, and Tabshir Shams is pursuing an MA, Faculty of International Relations, South Asian University, New Delhi.)

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

April 7 marked the commemoration of the genocide that occurred in Rwanda in 1994. Here is a quiz on the events leading to that grim chapter in the country's history

Mohammed Hidhayat

QUESTION 1
Name the three ethnic groups in the East African country.

QUESTION 2
These groups share a common ethno-linguistic background. What language family do they belong to?

QUESTION 3
Before independence, Rwanda (ruled by a Tutsi monarchy) was colonised by which two European powers, both of whom formalised ethnic divisions?

QUESTION 4
The long-standing tension between the majority Hutus and minority Tutsis escalated into a civil war in 1990. Which Tutsi rebel group formed by exiles in Uganda emerged victorious? (Hint: It has been the de facto ruling party since 1994)

QUESTION 5
Media was used to sow future seeds of violence in the final years of the internal war. State-owned _____ provided initial support to Radio RTLM, a private Hutu-owned station, which spread hate propaganda against the Tutsis, characterising them as subhuman. Fill in the blank with the name of the radio station.

QUESTION 6
An assassination on April 6 set off the genocide. Hutu extremists blamed Tutsi rebels (a claim still disputed) and launched a coordinated campaign of violence. Identify the designations of the two leaders killed in the plane attack.

Visual Question: Many exiled Tutsis had served in the guerilla force, National Resistance Army, that overthrew Uganda's government in 1986. Name the Ugandan leader who has remained in power since then. AFP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Name of the campaign for the World Health day in 2025. **Ans: Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures**
2. Name of the summit being held in Lyon from April 5 to 7, 2026. **Ans: One Health summit**
3. The theme of the Global Forum of WHO Collaborating Centres, which being held from April 7 to 9, 2026. **Ans: Collaborating for a Healthier Future**
4. The theme for this year's World Health Day. **Ans: Together for health; Stand with science**
5. The WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) developed and publish the regional guidance document *Responding to outbreaks of antimicrobial-resistant pathogens in healthcare facilities: guidance for the Western Pacific Region*, in collaboration with this institute. **Ans: Doherty Institute at the University of Melbourne**
Visual: This institute has been supporting WHO's work on obesity prevention, nutrition, and physical activity, and since this year. **Ans: Leibniz Institute for Prevention Research and Epidemiology, since 2016**
Early birds: Tamal Biswas |Arun Kumar Singh | Ambarin Aslam | Jinsha Fathima | Abhay Krishnan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of the expression "Hobson's choice"? (S. Balasubrahmanian, Chennai)
Thomas Hobson (1544-1631) owned a stable in Cambridge, England. He used to rent horses to people who required them. Hobson was a very methodical man. He insisted that all his horses be exercised in regular rotation. When he rented a horse to someone, he made sure that the same horse wasn't rented out again before the others had done their job. When a horse that had been rented was returned to him, it was placed at the back of the line. This was Hobson's way of ensuring that all horses did an equal amount of work. The horse that was next in line to be rented out was placed near the stable door. When a customer came to hire a horse, he was asked to take the horse nearest the stable door. If the customer was not satisfied with the horse and wanted another one, he was told that he could either take the horse that had been offered to him or none at all. In other words, the person who wanted to rent a horse had no choice at all. And that's what the expression "Hobson's choice" means: no choice at all. You can take what you are offered or nothing at all. Here are a few examples:

Venkatesh didn't really want to stay in that particular hotel, but it was a case of Hobson's choice. All the other hotels were full.

If you want a cream coloured shirt, I am afraid it's Hobson's choice. We have only one at the moment.

Is it O.K. to say, "I, along with them, am going to school"? (S. Balaji, Parangi Pettai, T.N.)
The usual rule is when phrases/clauses are introduced by constructions like "as well as", "along with", or "in addition to", the verb that follows is determined by the noun that precedes these constructions. If the noun that precedes them is singular, then the verb is singular too. In other words, such constructions do not function like "and". Here are a few examples:

Murali, as well as his three sisters, is studying at Geethanjali. (Murali is studying at Geethanjali).

The children, in addition to their father, are watching the movie. (The children are watching the movie).

So, it is O.K. to say, "I, along with my brothers, am going to school".

What is the meaning of "body language"? (A. Umar, Kadayanallur, T.N.)
Did our cricket players in Australia look happy? They looked a pretty dejected lot, didn't they? How did you know they were dejected? Their shoulders drooped, they walked rather slowly, there was no smile on their faces.... You get the point, don't you? That's what body language is. It's a way of showing your emotions or feelings to other people through your body.

Is it O.K. to qualify the word "integrity" with words like "highest"? (P. Unnikrishnan, Udyogamandal)
Yes, it is. Here are some examples from dictionaries:

My husband was a man of the highest integrity. (Collins Cobuild).

Published in The Hindu on March 21, 2000

Word of the day

Furtive:
marked by quiet, caution and secrecy

Synonyms: sneaky, stealthy, surreptitious

Usage: *He slipped a furtive look at the document on the table.*

Pronunciation: https://newsth.live/mh5BOX/furtive

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈfɜːtɪv/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

'Delimitation will cause economic hardship to South Indian States'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Milk Union Limited (BAMUL) president and Congress leader D.K. Suresh on Tuesday alleged that the delimitation of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies would not only reduce the number of seats for South Indian States but would also lead to serious economic hardship.

Speaking to mediapersons here, Mr. Suresh said, "The southern States need to wake up. Whether seats are gained or lost is not the point."

He was replying to a question regarding the Prime Minister's claim that delimitation would not result in a loss of seats for South India.

"A special Lok Sabha session has been called from April 16. We need to watch how the Union government introduces the Bill in this regard. Overall, this is a conspiracy to funnel the South's money to the northern States. Our taxes will be diverted to them," Mr. Suresh further alleged.

'Based on 2011 census'

"The Union government says it is carrying out delimitation based on the 2011 Census. This is even more dangerous. As per the Census, Bengaluru's population was 60 to 70 lakh. It is now about 1.40 crore. Karnataka's population was 5 crore then, and has now grown beyond 7 crore. Along with this, numerous challenges, including economic ones, will arise. All parties need to consider this seriously," he said.

Pinarayi, Revanth skirmish over use of coarse language

Kerala CM says he strongly objects to the manner in which his Telangana counterpart comported himself with 'a colleague Chief Minister of a non-BJP government to settle political differences'

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his Telangana counterpart, A. Revanth Reddy, skirmished on social media on Tuesday, accusing each other of employing coarse language in politics.

Mr. Reddy's use of a "schoolyard taunt," a political adaptation of a popular dialogue, *Nee Po, Mone Vijayan*, instead of the original, *Nee Po, Mone Dinesha*, from the Mohanlal film *Narasimham*, sparked the dispute.

Mr. Vijayan upped the ante in the stand-off by signalling in Kannur that a strong rebuttal was on its way. "Dash *Mone* Revantha, the answer is coming," he told a press conference.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan addressing a meet-the-press programme in Kannur on Tuesday. S.K. MOHAN

Later, Mr. Vijayan wrote on X that he strongly objected to the "personally insulting manner" in which Mr. Reddy comported himself with "a colleague Chief Minister of a non-BJP government to settle political differences."

Mr. Reddy retorted on X that he would not respond to Mr. Vijayan's "rash comment with a dash comment." He alleged that Mr. Vijayan had used "language of poor taste" to fend off "fair criticism."

Last week, Mr. Reddy had stirred a controversy by using the cinema catchphrase while campaigning in Kerala to underscore the "need to end Mr. Vijayan's decade-old regime."

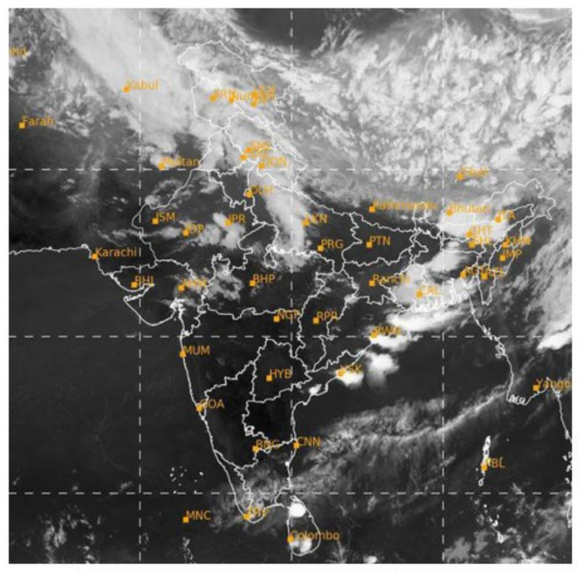
Mr. Vijayan replied that he would not debate Telangana's performance, calling it an issue for that State's parties. He accused Mr. Reddy of spreading the false "stereotype" that Kerala was in industrial and social decline, and cited the latest NITI Ayog data to dispel the image.

Mr. Reddy replied on X that he merely wanted to set the record straight for both the States and meant no disrespect.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said Mr. Vijayan had "lost his mental balance" and could have responded in a more "abject manner."

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal and Odisha. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.8	33.4	22.6	Kozhikode	—	34.6	25.7
Ahmedabad	—	36.6	24.5	Kurnool	—	39.0	25.8
Aizawl	3	30.5	16.8	Lucknow	—	34.5	20.4
Allahabad	—	37.6	19.9	Madurai	—	38.0	25.2
Bengaluru	—	35.2	22.4	Mangaluru	—	32.7	22.9
Bhopal	—	34.4	20.8	Mumbai	—	31.8	23.6
Bhubaneswar	5	34.3	22.6	Mysuru	—	37.0	19.6
Chandigarh	—	27.6	18.8	New Delhi	0.4	28.8	20.1
Chennai	—	36.2	26.4	Patna	—	35.6	22.0
Coimbatore	—	36.4	23.6	Port Blair	—	32.4	25.6
Dehradun	—	25.4	14.5	Puducherry	—	34.4	27.6
Gangtok	—	21.0	11.1	Pune	—	36.5	21.2
Goa	—	32.7	22.5	Raipur	—	37.5	23.7
Guwahati	5	31.3	19.6	Ranchi	—	31.8	17.6
Hubballi	—	36.0	20.0	Shillong	8	20.5	10.1
Hyderabad	—	37.0	22.4	Shimla	—	20.6	10.3
Imphal	20	25.8	16.3	Srinagar	—	17.3	7.9
Jaipur	—	28.5	22.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	36.4	26.7
Kochi	—	31.6	27.2	Tiruchi	—	39.1	26.4
Kohima	—	21.0	11.0	Vijayawada	0.8	38.5	25.0
Kolkata	14	34.0	19.7	Visakhapatnam	—	34.0	27.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.48	.64	.85	52	123	
Bengaluru	.15	.49	.60	—	111	
Chennai	.16	.10	.41	39	63	
Delhi	.27	.54	.52	172	110	
Hyderabad	.14	.13	.33	64	95	
Kolkata	.22	.36	.59	42	58	
Lucknow	6	.46	.27	139	112	
Mumbai	9	.60	.21	33	85	
Pune	—	.19	108	41	54	
Visakhapatnam	.24	.44	.15	44	88	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hajipur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 240 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 16

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Karnataka makes audit of adolescent pregnancies mandatory

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Adolescent pregnancy continues to be a significant public health and social concern

In a move aimed at strengthening adolescent health and addressing early pregnancies, the State government has made it mandatory to audit all adolescent pregnancy cases involving girls aged 10 to 18 years.

A Government Order (GO) issued on Tuesday said the audit will be carried out by the respective Taluk Health Officers across the State, covering all such cases reported through both government and private health establishments.

Adolescent pregnancy continues to be a significant public health and social concern, with implications for maternal health, neonatal outcomes and long-term socio-economic development. Pregnancies in this age group are associated with higher risks of complications, adverse birth outcomes, school dropout and increased social vulnerability. Citing global estimates, officials noted that nearly half of adolescent pregnancies are unintended.

Last week, the Health Department had directed private hospitals to mandatorily report cases of minor pregnancies under the POCSO Act, warning that failure to do so will invite legal action against both doctors and hospital managements.

The GO stated that while programmes such as the National Health Mission and the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) focus on adolescent health through counselling, awareness and access to services, the persistence of teenage pregnancies points to gaps that require systematic review. Under the new framework, all adolescent pregnancies must be mandatorily reported on the Reproductive and Child Health platform. The audit will examine factors such as age at marriage, educational status, awareness of reproductive health, access to contraception and counselling services, and socio-economic vulnerabilities. It will assess linkages with schemes such as RKSK, ICDS and school health programmes.

At the taluk level, an audit committee headed by the THO will be set up, with members including health inspectors, Primary Health Centre medical officer, ASHA supervisors, anganwadi supervisors and, where applicable, school representatives.

Based on the findings, the health system will undertake measures including counselling through designated centres, provision of contraceptive services and pregnancy testing kits, and identification of vulnerable adolescents such as school dropouts, migrants and those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU | thehindu businessline | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | The Hindu Young World | THE HINDU

ಕಾರ್ಕಳ ಪುರಸಭೆ
ಕಾರ್ಕಳ–574104, ಉಡುಪಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, KARKALA, UDUPI DIST.
Ph: 08258-230292, 08258-231023, Fax: 08258-235664
Email: itstaff_ulb_karkala@yahoo.co.in, tmekarkala@yahoo.co.in
Web: www.karkalatown.mrc.gov.in

ಕಾಪುಸ:ನಿಆರ್:ತಾ.ವಿ.:76:ಅಮೃತ್–2.0:ಜ.ಪ್ರ.ಜಾ.ಉ.ಅ/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02.04.2026

ಕಾರ್ಕಳ ಪುರಸಭೆ
ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಾರ್ಕಳ ಪುರಸಭೆಯ ಅಮೃತ್ 2.0 ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ (Standard Tender Document) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು KPPP ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (Website: kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

1. DMA/2025–26/OW/WORK_INDENT56654 - ರೂ. 63.12 ಲಕ್ಷ
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 10.04.2026 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ
ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13.04.2026 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆ
ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 15.04.2026 ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ

ಸಹಿ/–, ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಕಾರ್ಕಳ

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION KOPPAL.
Phone No: 08539 – 222318 email : eepwdkpl2@gmail.com
IFT No. PWD:DK:TR:KW-1, 3 & 4:2026-27: 63 Date : 07-04-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers as per standard bid documents KW-3 on **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Portal. Head of Account :4059-80-051-0-60-132 CMIDP & 2216-07-053-00-01-200 (Non Plan) / 2025-26. **Two cover** Tender procedure as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed. For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours on Phone No. **08539 – 222318** and all informations regarding tenders can be had from website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** 3 Works **(Work Indent No: 32306/ CALL-2, 32128 & 34079)** Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders **17-04-2026 Time 13.00**, Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid **18-04-2026 Time 13.30**. Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid **21-04-2026 Time 11.00**. (Minimum & Estimate Maximum Amount **Rs. 5.00 Lakhs** & **Rs.480.00 Lakhs** respectively. The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address, EMD, Date & Time for Pre-bid meeting, Tender Queries/Clarification & Other information as mentioned in KPPP Portal. Any changes either in tender date or any other condition tenderers can view in KPPP portal.

Sd/-
EE PWD Division, Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/10/DeshpandePublicity/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA
No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-2:Tender-01:2026-27 Dated:- 07.04.2026

SHOR TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through KPPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

Name of work:- Two cover System :- Head of Account 3054-04-337-1-10-200 MDR Maintenance :-(1) IMPROVEMENTS AND ASPHALTING OF ROAD FROM KALKERE CONNECTING MALLENAHALLI CROSS VIA BALLALASAMUDRA, ALAGHATTA,MALLENAHALLI LINK FROM ALAGHATTA CONNECTING VADDARAHATTI CH 0.00 TO 2.55 KM (KADUR TALUK BORDER) IN HOSADURGA TALUK (W.I. 34940)/call-2
Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-120.00
Tender dates are as mentioned below:Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 13-04-2026 Time: 17.30
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 15-04-2026 Time: 16.00
Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 16-04-2026 Time: 16.15
Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 18-04-2026 Time: 11.00
Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 080-25501216 and 080-25501227.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/13/2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD, Chitradurga.

PUBLIC NOTICE

"My client SRI.NARAYAN .K. S/o Krishnappa, Residing at Lake view side Doddabasavanapura K. R. Puram Bangalore-560036 has intended to purchase the land bearing Sy No.31/8, measuring 0-27 gunats bounded on East by: Kaluve, West by: land belongs to Narayanaswamy, North by: Doddappaiah's Property, South by: Land belongs to V B Rudraiah,and Sy No.10/5 measuring 0-13.08 gunats, Bounded on East by: Doddappaiah's Property, West by: Lingamma Property, North by: Narayanappa Property, South by: Kaluve, Situated at Orohalli Village Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk Bangalore Rural District from Kavitha, Shakuntala and Shobha D/o Nagaraj Residents of Orohalli Village Jadigenahalli Hobli Hosakote Taluk Bangalore Rural District

If any General public has any claim or any dispute or any Charge, or any Mortgages, encumbrance of any person and etc. over the above property may submit their objections of any nature in writing with documents with respect of property to the undersigned within 7 days from this date of Publication. Later objection will not be considered.

N. K. RAVINDRA, Advocate
Opposite Indian Bank, Oil mill Road, K R Puram Bangalore 560036 | Ph : 99450 50562

RAICHUR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, RAICHUR
Mantralayam Road, I.D.S.M.T. Layout, Raichur, Karnataka - 584103, India
E-mail: rudaraichur@gmail.com, Website: https://ruda.karnataka.gov.in
Phone No: 08532-220435 Fax No: 08532-220689
No.:RCRUDA/ENG/TS/CR/LAKE/1322/2025-26/11 Date:04-04-2026

Tender Notification (Under KPPP 2.0 Procedure)

It is hereby informed that tender notifications are invited under the following grants for the works shown below through KPPP 2.0 procedure. Eligible contractors interested in participating in the tender may submit bids through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Further details are also available on the official website of Raichur Urban Development Authority (https://ruda.karnataka.gov.in).

Grant Details: RUDA Grant. **Name of Work:** Improvements to Rampur Kere at SY. No. 56,4 Acre 28 Gunta In Raichur City. Estimate Cost Rs. 500.00 Lakhs. **Indent Number:** RCRUDA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT1

DIP/RCR/10/KSMCA/12/2026-27
Sd/- Commissioner, Urban Development Authority, Raichur.

Government of Karnataka
Office of the State Mission Director,
Swachh Bharath Mission (Urban) Bengaluru.
10th Floor Vishweshwaraih Towers, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore 560001.
Telephone: 080- 22867172 / 22866302, Fax: 080-22863576 /22861665
Email: swmcelldma@gmail.com, dmablr@gmail.com. Website: www.municipaladmn.gov.in

Ref. No.: 1515222/DMA/SWM/SBM2/319/2024 **Date: 04.04.2026**

Tender Notification

Tenders are invited Under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)-2.0 -Used Water Management Unit for the Interception and Diversion works in 22 urban local bodies of Karnataka state, in a two-cover system under DBOT Basis as per KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000, details are as follows.

Sl. No	Name of works & Indent Numbers	Amount put to tender Rs.In Lakhs (Excluding GST)
1.	Package No-01 Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT)of Interception and Diversion works in Badami, Belagali, Jamkhandi, Kamatagi, Mahalingpur, Mudhol, Rabkavi Banhatti and Shiruru ULBs of Bagalkote District with 5 years operation and maintenance (including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 fund(Indent No. DMA/2025-26/WT/WORK_INDENT56775)	2189.06
2.	Package No-2 Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT)of Interception and Diversion works in Bailhongal, Chikodi, Kagavada, Kankanavadi, Konnur, MK Hubballi and PG Mallapura ULBs of Belagavi District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund(Indent No. DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT56822)	1467.94
3.	Package No-7 Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Holalkere, Hosadurga, Molakalmuru and Nayakanahatti ULBs of Chitradurga District with 5 years operation and maintenance(including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)2.0 fund(Indent No. DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT56810)	433.00
4.	Package No-16 Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) of Interception and Diversion works in Madhugiri, Pavagada and Tiptur ULBs of Tumkur District with 5 years operation and maintenance (including 2 year Defect liability period) under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) fund(Indent No. DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT56795)	768.94

The tender is invited in accordance with two-cover system through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP). Interested qualified bidders/agencies are requested to participate within the date specified on the KPP portal. Any information can be obtained only through the KPP portal

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
Directorate of Municipal Administration, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/096/ZEN/2026-27

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 17/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.02.2026 ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮುಂದೂಡಿಕೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 17(1)/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.03.2026 ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 17(2)/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.04.2026

ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– IV ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (Double Cover System) ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ CMIDP ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದರ್ಜೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ. **(1)** E-procurement ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್–ಬಿ ಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.4.2026 ರ 16.30 ರವರೆಗೆ (2)** ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.04.2026 ರಂದು 16.35 ನಂತರ (3)** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.04.2026 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ನಂತರ** (ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಲ್ಲಿ) **(4)** ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ (ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ): e- Procurement ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ
1	Improvements to road from Huduguru village to Virupasandra Lakshmipur road via fishermens houses in Gowribidanur Taluk Chikkaballapur District (**RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25326/CALL-2**)	100.51	200000.00	6 ತಿಂಗಳು
	Total	**100.51**		

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ. ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:15/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

A BG-BGE

Two plus one

Anti-incumbency is not a strong factor in two States and one UT going to polls

Public campaigning for the April 9 Assembly elections in Kerala, Assam and Puducherry concluded on Tuesday and voting will take place in a single phase across all three regions – 126 seats in Assam, 140 in Kerala, and 30 in Puducherry. The results will be declared on May 4. In Kerala, the incumbent LDF led by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan is seeking a third consecutive term. No alliance has achieved such a feat in the State, but the LDF mounted an audacious campaign premised on a claim that 'there is no alternative' to the LDF. The emergence of the BJP – it won its first Lok Sabha seat in the State in 2024 – as a notable force in the State has further confused the Kerala electorate. Each of the three formations has accused the other two of having an understanding beneath the open posturing. The UDF is attempting to convert the momentum that it gained in the Lok Sabha and local body elections into an Assembly victory. The LDF is counting on its 10 years of welfare governance. The Congress has replicated its model of guarantees covering key vote blocs such as college students and women. The party managed to resolve the internal disputes over ticket distribution, but senior leaders are angling for the Chief Minister's post, counting their chickens before they hatch. The CPI(M) had to contend with at least four of its senior leaders leaving the party and contesting as UDF candidates.

In Assam, the campaign has been dominated by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who is seeking a second term and a third for the BJP-led NDA. He has formulated a strident version of anti-Muslim rhetoric, Hindutva, and indigenous identity politics and welfare schemes, particularly the Orunodoi direct benefit transfer to around 40 lakh women. Other promises by the BJP are measures against illegal encroachment, implementation of the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, a Uniform Civil Code excluding tribal areas, and two lakh government jobs. The campaign concluded with the Congress responding in kind to Mr. Sarma's highly personalised campaign against Congress's campaign leader Gaurav Gogoi. Mr. Sarma has been alleging that Mr. Gogoi has links with Pakistan. The Congress alleged that Mr. Sarma's wife holds three passports – the UAE, Antigua and Barbuda, and Egypt – and may be preparing to flee in the event of defeat. A six-party alliance led by the Congress is fighting on an uneven battlefield in Assam. In Puducherry, an NDA government led by All India N.R. Congress (AINRC) leader N. Rangasamy has been in power since 2021. With only 30 seats, the personal standing of individual candidates could play a bigger role in the outcome than grand politics in the Union Territory.

Systemic reckoning

Sattankulam verdict should sensitise the police against use of excessive force

Delivery of justice to hapless victims of police brutality requires a combination of an actively engaged judiciary, the courage of victims and witnesses to speak out against the khaki fraternity, and a determined investigation to assemble irrefutable evidence. All these factors perfectly aligned to uncover the truth behind the custodial killing of an innocent trader, Jayaraj, and his son Benicks, who were tortured at the Sattankulam police station in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, six years ago. Relying on the CBI's scientific evidence, despite early attempts to destroy it, a trial court in Madurai has now convicted all nine policemen arraigned in the case. A tenth accused had died earlier of COVID-19. While the awarding of the death penalty to the convicts militates against the principle of rehabilitative justice, the conviction sends a strong message to those in uniform who assume the power to wield force against unarmed citizens as if it were a statutory right. This case might have passed off as yet another suspicious custodial death but for overwhelming evidence of torture and public outrage. The police picked up Jayaraj on false charges of violating lockdown conditions during the pandemic, and Benicks was detained later when he confronted them for assaulting his father. The two men were stripped, brutally beaten overnight, and even forced to clean their own blood with their clothes. After registering an FIR on trumped-up charges, the injured men were produced before a government doctor, who dubiously issued a "fit for remand" report. The jurisdictional magistrate too mechanically remanded them to judicial custody, ultimately leading to their deaths.

That the policemen felt entitled was evident when a Judicial Magistrate found the atmosphere at the station hostile and "intimidating". Justices P.N. Prakash and B. Pugalendhi of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, having taken *suo motu* cognisance, in an extraordinary direction, asked revenue officials to take control of the station to safeguard evidence. The turning point came when a head constable, Revathi, testified against her colleagues. The CBI established that blood samples recovered from the station matched the victims' DNA, while call data records confirmed the presence of both the victims and the accused at the time of the crime, sealing the case. The trial court appears to have applied uniform proportionality in assigning culpability to all accused. This may not withstand scrutiny in higher courts, as seen in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, where the Supreme Court, in 1999, upheld the death sentences of only four of the 26 convicted by the TADA court. Nonetheless, the convictions should help sensitise the police force that excesses will not go unpunished.

Delimitation, women's reservation, political dynamics

Zoya Hasan

Professor Emerita, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

In September 2023, Parliament passed the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023, or the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, which commits to reserving one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas for women, including in constituencies already earmarked for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. However, this potentially transformative measure falls short of immediacy: its implementation is deferred until after the next Census and the subsequent delimitation exercise.

During parliamentary debates, the Congress party, along with several other Opposition parties, demanded its immediate operationalisation, ideally for the 2024 general election. Women's rights groups criticised the government for tying the quota to delimitation after the new Census, arguing that it creates unnecessary delays. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government rejected this, maintaining that such a major change, without updated Census data and delimitation, would undermine both fairness and feasibility.

The shift now seems more deliberate

Less than three years later, that position appears to have shifted. Recent reports suggest that the government now plans to amend the Women's Reservation Act, 2023 by initiating a delimitation exercise based on the 2011 Census, rather than waiting for a fresh Census and a subsequent delimitation process tied to it. At the same time, the size of the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies may be expanded by nearly 50%, increasing the Lok Sabha's strength from 543 to 816 seats. In the absence of any formal articulation of the basis for such an expansion, questions arise about its implications for representational balance and political fairness.

Taken together, these developments – particularly the proposed increase in seats – point to a decoupling of women's reservation from the next Census, expected to include caste enumeration beyond the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and the delimitation exercise that would follow. While this shift is framed as a means of expediting implementation, it also suggests a more deliberate political reconfiguration underlying these far-reaching structural changes.

The timing is telling. Acting at this juncture allows the government to claim credit for a long-pending reform that previous administrations failed to implement, even if it entails departing from the sequencing that it had earlier defended. It has clear electoral implications, likely to mobilise women voters in upcoming Assembly elections across key States/Union Territory, consolidate support ahead of the 2027 contests, and position the Bharatiya Janata Party as the party that delivered on women's reservations and gender justice. This claim could, in turn, become a chief plank of its campaign for the 2029 general election.

> Implementing women's reservation without waiting for the Census or delimitation exercise could undermine representation and the intended reforms

Delimitation, however, remains contentious, questioning whether representation should be based solely on population or also consider economic, social, and demographic factors. A strictly population-based approach would strengthen the parliamentary power of northern States where fertility rates remain relatively high, while reducing the relative influence of southern and peninsular states that have stabilised population growth and significantly drive India's economy and employment. This dynamic is likely to deepen the existing north-south divide, driven by demographic asymmetries and uneven development outcomes, placing additional strain on the federal compact and the balance of inter=State representation.

These conflicting concerns stem from the constitutional freeze on delimitation, leaving constituency boundaries and seat allocations unchanged since the early 1970s. After nearly five decades, the government now appears set to lift this freeze, proposing a roughly 50% expansion of the Lok Sabha alongside proportional increases in State Assemblies. This approach is intended to reassure southern States by preserving their relative share of seats and thus reducing resistance to delimitation. Yet, even with a uniform expansion, the absolute seat counts of northern States would rise significantly, further tilting the existing balance of power in their favour. For instance, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar together could approach 180 seats, while the five southern States (Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana) combined may reach around 195, raising the possibility that the northern bloc could still wield disproportionate political weight. In a first-past-the-post system, where numerical strength ultimately determines both electoral victory and seats gained, such an increase risks entrenching structural disadvantages for less populous regions, even if formal proportionality is preserved.

The issue of data

These distributional concerns are compounded by the question of data. Basing women's reservation on the 2011 Census is problematic, particularly when a new Census is already underway. India in 2026 bears little resemblance to its 2011 demographic profile: migration, rapid urbanisation, and the after-effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have significantly reshaped population patterns over the past decade and a half, altering both urban and rural constituencies. Proceeding with outdated data risks misrepresenting current realities at the very moment when foundational decisions on delimitation, seat expansion, and the operationalisation of women's reservation are being made. Yet, the urgency to move ahead suggests a calculated political judgement: that the imperative of delivering women's reservation will outweigh resistance, as few can afford to oppose its expeditious implementation, leaving little room to contest either the process or its sequencing. The issue is further complicated by what the next Census itself may reveal. Widely expected to be a landmark exercise, the availability of caste data could sharpen demands for greater representation of disadvantaged caste groups, particularly given their demographic strength. It may also amplify calls for sub-quotas within women's reservation, especially from Other Backward Classes (OBCs), including Muslim OBC communities that remain underrepresented. Several political parties and women's organisations have already voiced such demands. By moving ahead without waiting for the 2026-27 Census, the government appears to be postponing these pressures, but only temporarily.

A further concern is the lack of clarity on how women's reservation will operate in practice. While the amendment mandates a one-third quota, it defers critical details, especially the rotation of reserved constituencies. This is not a minor issue: rotation determines who can contest, from where, and with what continuity, shaping both accountability and constituency development. Earlier proposals cautioned that frequent rotation could disrupt these goals, yet the current framework leaves the design unresolved. Reports suggest that in smaller States and Union Territories with one or two Lok Sabha seats, the rotation of reserved constituencies may operate differently, resulting in less frequent turnover, while in larger States, some seats could remain reserved across successive terms. However, the law itself provides only for rotation after delimitation, leaving the precise mechanism to be defined.

The need for deliberation

None of this diminishes the core premise: women's reservation is long overdue and politically imperative. Evidence from other countries suggests that quotas can be effective, and there is little reason to believe that India would be an exception. Taken together, women's reservation, seat expansion and delimitation are not isolated changes; they will jointly reshape who is represented, from where, and in what proportions. Seen in this context, they mark a foundational reordering of the electoral map – one that will redraw constituencies, recalibrate the weight of States, and reconfigure the social composition of legislative bodies. Far from a marginal or technical adjustment, this is a structural shift that could rebalance political power across regions, social groups, and genders.

Precisely because of the scale of this shift, implementation must be preceded by thorough deliberation grounded in the latest data. Departing from the logical and constitutionally settled sequence risks distorting representation and seat distribution, thereby weakening the very reform it seeks to advance. India stands on the cusp of one of the most significant transformations of its representative system since the early decades of the Republic.

A closer look at Asim Munir's West Asia diplomacy

Mahesh Sachdev

Former Indian Ambassador specialising in West Asia and oil matters

To give the devil its due, Pakistan's Chief of Defence Forces Field Marshal Asim Munir's recent diplomatic avatar has shown a sense of anticipation of the incipient conflict and hyperactivity in its wake. He was everywhere: soothsaying Trump 2.0, at the signing of Pakistan's Strategic Mutual Defence Agreement (SDMA) with Saudi Arabia, and selling weapons to the Libyan warlord and the Sudanese Army Chief.

But his most ambitious rainbow chase has been the self-proclaimed role of an indispensable mediator in Iran's war with the United States/Israel. So, if he eventually fails to ford the Strait of Hormuz, it would not be for lack of trying.

The gaze of detractors

However, his detractors – there are many in India – are themselves guilty of a transactional approach in judging his diplomatic hyperactivity. In their opinion, the energetic Field Marshal's regional diplomatic overreach is doomed to fail for reasons ranging from the intrinsic weaknesses and preoccupations of Pakistan, the constant shapeshifting in the West Asian conundrum, to a propensity for glib talk. They are itching to see it fail and then claim the proprietary rights to the outcome.

Such predictions are overblown on two grounds. First it is the process and not the product. The entire exercise is aimed at exorcising the ghosts of Islamabad's pattern of shortchanging its gullible partners. Whether the Pakistani leopard can change its spots is a separate question. Second, they half expect Field Marshal Munir's wading into Trump-kissed regional diplomacy would, at one stroke, solve many of Pakistan's current troubles – from a sclerotic economy and diplomatic doghouse to internal political disorder. This may be an unrealistic outcome.

> Pakistan's Field Marshal is being watched to see whether he will emerge as an indispensable mediator or a useful idiot

Pakistani diplomacy has left no stone unturned in wooing Trump 2.0, flipping a decade-long mutual antipathy with the U.S. that followed the killing of Osama bin Laden in 2011. Indeed, this multi-pronged charm offensive has been handsomely rewarded, and Asim Munir has become Mr. Trump's favourite Field Marshal. Then moving on to being a messenger-cum-mediator between Washington and Tehran, seamlessly replacing Oman and Qatar, as the latter faced Iran's retaliation for hosting the U.S. military bases.

An overreach

In Asim Munir's scheme of things, all this greater realpolitik is to set off a perpetual motion machine meant for multiple ends. In the short run, he hopes to monetise its "peace-making" role to curry favour with both Washington and Beijing, becoming a useful conduit for their planned first Summit next month. He would also attempt a reset with the post-war dispensation in Iran. Islamabad has already leveraged its putative links with Iran to host a brainstorming meeting with the Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and Egypt on March 30, which may lead to an Islamic NATO. In a less noticed, but significant move, Asim Munir recently paid a low-key fence-mending visit to Abu Dhabi, miffed by Islamabad's growing proximity with rival Saudi Arabia.

At a different level, Islamabad also hopes that its overreach would fulfil its long-standing ambition to be counted in the senior league of the Islamic world. Last, but not least, Pakistan also hopes that being the paw of various fat cats would earn it cash rewards and bail it out of perennial penury. If all that happens, Asim Munir would have transformed himself from being an ambitious top-gun to surpass the iconic Ayub Khan, the only other Field Marshal and President of Pakistan.

There are reasons to believe that Asim Munir's diplomatic activism may not get sustainable tailwinds to fully realise its goals. It is mainly because too many factors are beyond his control. Well-informed U.S. media reported last evening that Iran has stopped engaging in talks to halt the fighting. It may turn out later that sceptics in Tehran were cynically "blowing hot, blowing cold" about the "Islamabad talks", to keep Mr. Trump off-balance and expose his unreliability as a regional security provider. This could take the wind out of Pakistan's self-image as the only country with cordial ties with both Iran and the U.S.

There are multiple ethnic, geopolitical and orientational differences between Tehran and Islamabad. Second, the portents do not point to any possible de-escalation in the conflict, which currently seems headed in the opposite direction. The current prognosis is for either a war of attrition or for Mr. Trump to declare a fictional victory and quit the arena.

The broader view

Either way, Iran may use the leverage of the selective closure of the Strait of Hormuz to serve its own multiple goals, from revenue accretion to keeping the littoral states under pressure and forcing the U.S. to relent on the sanctions. In either of the two scenarios, the stakeholders would have little use for Asim Munir's diplomacy. Pakistan's long restive land border with Iran and a significant Shia minority have forced its hand in being more kinetic in response to Saudi Arabian calls for mutual defence. In case Mr. Trump averts his eyes to the Gulf and looks for more manageable targets, his ardour for his favourite Field Marshal may cool further. This would then allow the redoubtable Pakistani Field Marshal an opportunity to rue the verity of a century-old aphorism: "War is too important to be left to the generals".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Forever wars

An Israeli peace activist recently described Gaza, Iran and Lebanon as fronts in "one forever war". That phrase captures a tragic truth many prefer not to confront: these conflicts are no longer isolated eruptions of violence but parts of a continuous, self-sustaining cycle driven by fear, retaliation, political survival, and hardened narratives on all sides. Each round of fighting is justified as necessary, defensive, and unavoidable. Yet, every strike plants the seeds of the next. Civilians pay the highest price while leaders speak in the language of security, deterrence, and survival. What makes this "forever war" so dangerous is not only the destruction that it causes but also the way that it reshapes thinking. It convinces societies that peace is naive, that empathy is weakness, and that perpetual conflict is the natural order. Voices calling for dialogue, and political courage are often dismissed as unrealistic. Yet, history shows that "forever wars" end only when people dare to imagine an alternative and demand that leaders pursue it.

Jagjit Singh,
Los Altos, California, U.S.

Sattankulam case

The well-reasoned judgment in the Sattankulam case brings closure to a gruesome murder which was committed with impunity by those who are expected to uphold the law, procedures and guidelines related to interrogation. That the CBI took painstaking efforts to establish the offence merits commendation of a high order. The sanctity of human rights has prevailed.

V. Johan Dhanakumar,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Limits of neutrality in addressing caste

Priya Chaudhary
Research Associate, CLPR

The interim stay by the Supreme Court on the UGC Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions Regulation, 2026, as reported by the Supreme Court Observer, arrives at a pivotal moment. These regulations emerged from *Abeda Salim Tadvi v Union of India*, a pending case before the Supreme Court concerning caste-based discrimination and student suicides in higher educational institutions. The case highlights institutional failures in creating an equal and inclusive learning space.

When discussing caste discrimination in higher education, it is essential to clarify what is being addressed. The 2026 regulations under 3(c) define "caste-based discrimination" as discrimination based on caste or tribe against members of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes. This specificity is not exclusionary; rather, it is necessary to recognise caste as a continuing structure of marginalisation rather than isolated incidents.

Why neutrality fails

The definition has been criticised for excluding 'general category' students, with suggestions to adopt a caste-neutral definition that includes them, in line with Article 14 of the Constitution, which guarantees equality before the law. However, this reasoning misunderstands both how caste discrimination operates in practice and how equality is understood under the Constitution.

The Constitution does not mandate an abstract, one-size-fits-all neutrality. Article 15 not only prohibits discrimination but also empowers the State to make "special provisions" for socially and educationally backward classes, SCs and STs to ensure substantive equality. Equality, in this framework, is substantive rather than formal.

Formal equality assumes that discrimination operates symmetrically and that all social groups require identical protection. However, caste discrimination is structural, embedded in graded hierarchies that shape access to dignity, resources, and institutional power. Including "general category" groups into a caste-neutral definition risks collapsing this structural inequality into a universal grievance framework, where systemic oppression is equated with isolated interpersonal bias. Such neutrality does not expand protection; it dilutes the law's ability to address caste as a system of power.

For decades, SC and ST students have experienced social exclusion, unequal treatment, humiliation, and institutional bias. In several cases, such structural discrimination has led to mental distress and suicides. These realities, reflected in the pending case under which the equity regulations were formulated, show that the framework is grounded in systemic concerns, not isolated incidents.

A caste-neutral definition would flatten unequal social positions into a formal notion of sameness that the Constitution itself does not endorse. Articles 14 and 15 permit differential treatment precisely to remedy historical and social disadvantage. Treating caste-based oppression as symmetrical across groups disregards the hierarchies through which caste operates and shifts the focus away from structural exclusion to abstract individual grievances. Therefore, defining caste-based discrimination through historically marginalised groups is not arbitrary. It recognises that discrimination operates through power structures that advantage some while disadvantaging others. This is not "reverse discrimination," but an acknowledgement that equality requires fairness in practice. A caste-neutral approach would obscure these structural realities and weaken the law's capacity to address caste-based exclusion in higher education.

Enforcement matters more

The equity regulations in higher education, including a focused definition of caste-based discrimination, are not meant to exclude others from protection. Rather, they aim to create a baseline of dignity and inclusion for those who have historically been excluded. This approach aligns with Articles 14 and 15, which allow differential treatment to remove disadvantage and achieve substantive equality. In a society shaped by caste, constitutional equality cannot be achieved through context-blind neutrality.

More importantly, the question is how effectively they may function on the ground. The failure to address caste-based discrimination lies largely in weak implementation and poor institutional accountability.

Instead of diluting the scope of the UGC regulations, the focus should be on strengthening them – by ensuring independent complaint mechanisms, time-bound inquiries, transparency in outcomes, and clear consequences for institutional non-compliance. The UGC guidelines must be supported by monitoring, regular audits, and meaningful oversight. A framework meant to prevent caste-based harm cannot succeed unless institutions are made answerable for how they respond to discrimination in practice.

Shifting the debate away from enforcement and towards abstract concerns about neutrality risks missing the core issue. For students facing everyday exclusion, the question is not inclusive definitional purity, but whether the system will respond when discrimination occurs. Strengthening the functioning of the UGC framework is therefore essential to fulfilling the constitutional promise of equality and dignity in higher education.

The UGC guidelines must be supported by monitoring, regular audits, and meaningful oversight

Kerala polls ignore a Gulf lifeline at risk

Kullu Thamam hides a looming disruption to remittances and livelihoods

STATE OF PLAY

Rejimon Kuttappan

As Kerala heads to the polls on April 9, a glaring paradox looms over the State. This is a land defined by migration. For generations, lakhs of Keralite families have built their homes, hopes, and futures on the salaries earned by sons, husbands, brothers, and fathers in the Gulf. The remittance economy is not a side story in Kerala's development; it is the story.

Lifeline under threat

Today, that same lifeline is under threat. Since late February, the escalating Iran-U.S.-Israel conflict has turned Gulf airspace into a dangerous theatre of missiles, drones, and interceptors. Airports in Dubai have been hit. Missile debris has landed in residential areas of Manama. Air routes have been suspended, forcing thousands of Indians into exhausting overland journeys through Saudi Arabia.

Indian workers have reported watching drone strikes from their apartment windows. Constant safety alerts and sirens restrict their movements. Many have been forced to stop work without clarity on whether the leave is paid or unpaid. Companies are openly warning workers that salaries will be delayed, halved, or withheld until the crisis ends. Recently hired workers are also being terminated.

Over 2.2 million Keralites live and work in the Gulf. Yet this war is almost absent from the election campaign. Neither the Communist-led Left Democratic Front nor the Congress-led United Democratic Front has issued any serious policy statement on the crisis.

Kerala's political class continues to treat the Gulf as Delhi's foreign policy matter, even though it is the most critical domestic issue for the State.

Why has this life-and-death crisis failed to become a poll issue? The answer lies in two uncomfortable truths.

First, a powerful narrative of false reassurance has been carefully built. In the Gulf, Indian businessmen with vested interests, along with large sections of the Kerala media, keep repeating the phrase *Kullu Thamam* (All is well). Gulf governments 'announcing' investments, businessmen saying no panic, and Kerala media outlets reliant on Gulf advertising downplay the crisis, focusing on safety systems while ignoring wage cuts, food prices, and growing fear.

But *Kullu Thamam* is a dangerous half-truth. Small business owners are struggling to pay wages, parents are worried about children's education, and low-paid workers are facing sharply higher prices for Indian vegetables due to disrupted supply routes.

Illusion of calm

Second, currently, most families continue to receive their monthly remittances. As long as the cash flows, the distant war feels like someone else's problem. But this calm is deceptive and dangerously so.

In 2023-24, Kerala received $23.4 billion in inward remittances, the second-highest among Indian States after Maharashtra. Yet the real story lies in how deeply these inflows sustain the State. Remittances account for a staggering 17.1% of Kerala's GDP, the highest share among major Indian States and more than three times Maharashtra's 5%. By comparison, the national average stands at just around 3%.

This is not just another economic statistic. It means that nearly one-fifth of Kerala's entire economy is directly powered by money sent from the Gulf. Entire towns and villages, real estate booms, gold sales, educational institutions, and daily consumption all float on these remittances. When that lifeline falters, the impact will not be gradual. It will be swift and brutal.

The real shock is coming. When companies invoke force majeure clauses, when construction projects stall, when visa renewals freeze, and recruitment stops, the impact will reach Kerala within weeks. If the conflict drags on, and all signs suggest it will, April and subsequent months will bring severe uncertainty.

When that moment arrives, the illusion of *Kullu Thamam* will collapse. Kerala's political leaders will realise too late that the State's biggest economic crisis was unfolding in plain sight while they were busy with seat-sharing and personal attacks.

The Keralites in the Gulf are not just a diaspora to be celebrated at NRK events and airport welcomes. They are the backbone of Kerala's economy. Their crisis is Kerala's crisis. This election is the time to acknowledge that reality, before it is too late.

Rejimon Kuttappan is a labour migrant rights expert

Amid welfare pitch, Kerala ranks highest in most indicators

The growing economy has outperformed other States in social, educational, and health parameters

DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy
Nitika Francis

Kerala is set to hold its Legislative Assembly elections on April 9, and the results will be announced on May 3. The stage is set for a tight competition between the incumbent Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the United Democratic Front (UDF), with the NDA trying to make inroads into the State's Assembly constituencies this year.

The three competing political fronts have released election manifestos which bet heavily on welfare via pensions. An analysis of key indicators shows that Kerala fares better than most in several indicators spanning health, economy, and education.

Table 1 shows Kerala's ranking among other States in select economic indicators and its actual value as per the latest year. Kerala has demonstrated solid economic growth over the past decade, and ranked seventh among 23 States in per capita net State domestic product.

Data shows that economic development permeates Kerala's rural population as well. The average daily wage rate in the State is ₹868, the highest among all States.

The State also ranks second among others in terms of Human Development Index (HDI), which takes health, education, and standard of living into account.

Table 2 shows Kerala's rank across various health indicators. As per data from the National Family Health Survey for 2021-22, Kerala recorded an Infant Mortality Rate of 4.4, the lowest in India. The nationwide average was nearly eight times this figure, 35.2. Kerala also recorded the lowest Maternal Mortality Ratio in the country.

The State recorded low shares of women aged 15-19 who have begun childbearing. About 93% of surveyed women in Kerala also have access to hygienic methods of menstrual protection. When it comes to children, only about 78% of Kerala's child population have received all basic vaccinations, ranking 12th out of 29 States. However, it has the second-lowest share of children aged 0-5 years whose growth is stunted, closely following Sikkim.

Kerala is also a frontrunner when it comes to education-related indicators **(Table 3)**. The State ranks among the top-performing States for the Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (ANER) in elementary education (%). This indicator, as per the World Bank, refers to the number of pupils of the school-age group for primary education, enrolled either in primary or secondary education as a share of the total population in that age group.

Similarly, the State's Gross enrolment ratio in higher secondary is higher than the all-India average of 57.6%. It is one of the top three States for this indicator. GER refers to total enrolment in a particular level of school education, regardless of age, as a share of the population of the official age group for a given level of school education.

With a ratio of 1.44, the State ranks first among 29 States on the Gender Parity Index in education (GPI). The indicator is the ratio of female to male students enrolled at a specific level of education.

The State is among the top-performing States for infrastructure indicators **(Table 4)**. As per data, the share of urban households living in kachha houses in the State is null, less than the country's average of 0.9%. It ranks second among 28 States with respect to Internet teledensity in rural areas.

But Kerala lagged a little behind on environment-related indicators. The State was among the top 10 States that generated high amounts of plastic waste per thousand population. It was also one of the top nine States in terms of per capita fossil fuel consumption.

(With inputs from Devyanshi Bihani)

Report card

The data for the tables were sourced from the National Family Health Survey (2021-22) and the NITI Aayog SDG India Index (2023-24)

TABLE 1: Kerala's values and ranks in terms of Human Development Index and economic indicators

Indicator	Kerala's value	Kerala's rank	India average	Top States/U.T.s
Human Development Index (2023)	0.86	2 out of 29	0.732	Goa (0.862), Kerala (0.86), Delhi (0.837)
Per Capita net domestic product (₹)	3,08,338	7 out of 23	2,05,324	Delhi (4,93,024), Telangana (3,87,623), Karnataka (3,80,906)
Average daily wage rates in rural areas (₹)	868.7	1 out of 18	398	Kerala (868.7), T.N. (573.2), Himachal Pradesh (516)

TABLE 2: Kerala's values and ranks across various indicators related to health

Indicator	Kerala's value	Kerala's rank (out of 29)	India average	Top States/U.T.s
Share of women aged 15-19 who have begun childbearing (%)	2.4%	1	6.8%	Uttarakhand (2.4%), Kerala (2.4%), Goa (2.7%)
Infant mortality rate	4.4	1	35.2	Kerala (4.4), Goa (5.6), Sikkim (11.2)
Share of population with unimproved sanitation facility (%)	0.2%	2	19.3%	Mizoram (0.1%), Kerala (0.2%), Sikkim (0.3%)
Share of children aged 0-5 years whose growth is stunted (%)	23%	2	36%	Sikkim (22%), Kerala (23%), Manipur (23%)
Share of children with all basic vaccinations	78%	12	77%	Odisha (91%), T.N. (89%), H.P. (89%)
Women using a hygienic method of menstrual protection (%)	93.3%	6	77.6%	T.N. (98.4%), Delhi (97.1%), Goa (96.8%)
Maternal Mortality Ratio (per 1,00,000 live births)	19	1	97	Kerala (19), Maharashtra (33), Telangana (43)
Households with at least one member covered by a health scheme (%)	57.8%	10	41%	Rajasthan (87.8%), A.P. (80.2%), Goa (73.1%)

TABLE 3: Kerala's values and ranks across various indicators related to education

Indicator	Kerala's value	Kerala's rank (out of 29)	India average	Top States/U.T.s
Share of women (aged 15-49) who have done no schooling (%)	0.8%	1	22.6%	Kerala (0.8%), Mizoram (5.3%), Goa (5.5%)
Share of men (aged 15-49) who have done no schooling (%)	2.3%	1	10.7%	Kerala (2.3%), Goa (3.2%), Mizoram (3.4%),
Drop out rate (%)	5.5%	6	12.6%	Manipur (1.3), H.P. (1.5), T.N. (4.5)
Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (ANER) in elementary education (%)	100%	1	96.5%	Multiple States (100%)
Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher secondary (%)	85%	3	57.6%	Delhi (94.9%), H.P. (94.1%), Kerala (85%)
Gender Parity Index (GPI) for higher education	1.44	1	N/A	Kerala (1.44), H.P. (1.33), Nagaland (1.28)

TABLE 4: Kerala's values and ranks across various indicators related to environment and infrastructure

Indicator	Kerala's value	Kerala's rank	India average	Top States/U.T.s
Plastic waste generated per 1,000 population (tonnes/annum)	3.39	10 out of 23	3.04	Goa (18.93), Delhi (16.9), Telangana (12.57)
Per capita fossil fuel consumption (in kg.)	191.61	9 out of 21	166.43	Haryana (341.95), Gujarat (339.23), Himachal Pradesh (271.79)
Percentage of urban households living in kachha houses (%)	0%	1 out of 29	0.9%	Kerala (0%), Haryana (0.2%), Maharashtra (0.2%)
Internet subscribers per 100 population in rural areas	160.19	2 out of 28	38.33	Goa (174.98), Kerala (160.19), Sikkim (104.35)

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 8, 1976

"City within city" in Government Estate

Madras, April 7: The Madras Metropolitan Development Authority is likely to take up special projects like development of a city centre in the Government Estate on Anna Salai and a commercial centre abutting the Quaide Millat College for women.

Draft proposals for these areas are ready and are being forwarded to the Tamil Nadu Government for its consideration.

It is proposed to develop the area inside Government Estate (27 hectares) in a big way as a shopping and office complex.

At present, this location is cluttered by miscellaneous uses and lends itself for redevelopment.

There will be business and commercial offices facing Anna Salai and Wallajah Road with a city centre complex built around Rajaji Hall and Kalaivanar Arangam. Residential accommodation will also be provided to make this area a "city within a city". Details are being worked out.

It is proposed to prohibit location of cinemas and other similar uses which generate peak pedestrian flows three or four times a day on the western side of the road. Since the city centre will be coming up, the planners feel that it is necessary to ensure a very high level of architectural standard. Not only the facade of the buildings require to be controlled but also the bulk and shape of the buildings in the area need to be regulated.

Being a shopping centre it is proposed to permit arcaded verandahs of approved design which would be three metres wide within the front area.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 8, 1926

Baron Rothschild fined

A special correspondent to "The Times of India" cables from Naples:–

Baron Maurice de Rothschild, it is stated, has been fined 370,000 lire (about £3,700) and Ettore Pisani and Alfredo Campanelli, two commission men, have been fined 120,000 lire (about £1,200) each for violating the law prohibiting the export of works of art without permission.

It is stated that in conjunction, they exported the famous statue "Mother of Venus."

From Page One

West Bengal electorate shrinks by 12%

The Supreme Court on Monday rejected the West Bengal government's plea to delay the locking of the electoral rolls to give a last chance for the 27 lakh voters who did not pass judicial scrutiny. Of the 294 constituencies in the Assembly, 152 will go to the polls in the first phase on April 23, and the remaining 142 seats in the second phase on April 29. The rolls for the first phase were locked on April 6, while the second phase rolls will be locked on April 9.

Terming it "vote theft", Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that a "particular community" had been targeted, in a reference to the high rate of deletions in Muslim-majority areas. "Votes of one particular community have been deleted by picking and choosing. Votes of Matuas and Rajbangshi community have been deleted," she said while addressing a gathering at Habra.

The Trinamool Congress chairperson has been urging people to cast their votes against the BJP to "take revenge" for the deletion of voters' names from the electoral rolls, and a delegation of party MPs, led by Derek O' Brien, will visit the Election Commission in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Renewed violence in Manipur leaves 4 dead

Elsewhere, protesters torched two oil tankers and a truck and destroyed a makeshift police outpost.

The Bishnupur district administration imposed restrictions on the movement of people, while the State government suspended mobile Internet services across five Valley districts for three days.

Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh described the bomb attack as a "barbaric act", and said that the government had decided to hand over the case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). "The act appears to be the handiwork of individuals or groups with vested interests in disturbing the prevailing peace in the State," he said.

A civilisation will die in Iran, warns Trump

The U.S. has sent a ceasefire proposal to Iran through Pakistan. Iran's Foreign Ministry has said the U.S. proposal was not acceptable. President Trump has said Iran had responded to his proposal but it was "not good enough". Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) says the Strait of Hormuz would never return to its previous status.

"A whole civilization will die tonight, never to be brought back again. I don't want that to happen, but it probably will," Mr. Trump, who had extended his deadline several times in recent past claiming progress in talks with Iran, wrote in a social media post. "However, now that we have complete and total regime change, where different, smarter, and less radicalized minds prevail, maybe something revolutionarily wonderful can happen... We will find out tonight," he added.

The IRGC said the war is entering a new phase, and Iran would dramatically escalate its response with the deployment of dual missile launchers. The Guards also said they launched the 99th wave of attack on Tuesday targeting U.S. bases and interests in the Gulf and command centres in Israel.

SC begins review of 2018 Sabarimala judgment

"How can the courts then examine the essentiality of religious practices of a denomination which does not otherwise offend public order, morality, and health?" Mr. Mehta asked the top court.

The focal point of the reference is how far the courts can use their plenary powers to judicially review religious practices considered "essential or core" in the name of ushering in social reform.

The Union government argued whether the judges had the expertise to decide if a ritual or a manner of devotion was merely superstition or an essential religious practice.

"The courts would first have to decide if it is a religious practice by interpreting the religious texts concerned. These texts require examination by religious scholars to understand what actually was meant at the time it was written. That is impossible for a court to do," Mr. Mehta submitted.

The 2018 judgment had upheld the right of women to enter the Sabarimala temple while rejecting the argument that not allowing women of menstruating age inside was an ancient custom essential to the nature of the deity, Lord Ayyappa in the Naishtika Brahmachari form, presiding at the shrine.

"Can the attribute of a deity [Naishtika Brahmachari] be judicially reviewed?" the top law officer queried.

Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, one of the nine judges on the Bench, asked if the Solicitor was trying to point out that courts must not get into the examination of the essentiality of a religious practice at all.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi referred to the fact that courts do entertain civil suits on ecclesiastical matters. "Judges are not experts in science. Yet, courts are empowered by the Evidence Act to examine the opinions of scientific experts and become an expert of experts," he observed.

Assam Police team visits Khera's Delhi residence

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday declared that the Assam Police would catch Congress leader Pawan Khera even from the "*paatal* (the netherworld)" to find out who gave him allegedly forged documents that maligned Mr. Sarma's family.

At a press conference on Sunday, Mr. Khera had claimed that Riniki Bhuyan Sharma, an entrepreneur and wife of Mr. Sarma, held three foreign passports, undeclared luxury properties in Dubai, and shell companies in the United States. After Ms. Sharma filed a complaint against Mr. Khera at the Assam Police Crime Branch in Guwahati, an Assam Police team landed at the Congress leader's New Delhi residence to question him, but found that he was not at home. Reports indicated that Mr. Khera was in Congress-ruled Telangana.

Mr. Sarma and his wife dismissed Mr. Khera's claims as "fabricated" and threatened to sue the latter within 48 hours.

Leaders make a final dash as poll campaigning ends

Parties hold rallies to convince voters; people must choose between 'bright future' and 'darkness', says Assam's Himanta Biswa Sarma; Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan says LDF has kept most promises

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
PUDUCHERRY

The curtain falls: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma campaigns in Guwahati on Tuesday, and, right, a view of the Peroorkada junction in Kerala's capital Thiruvananthapuram, where supporters of all major political parties assembled on the final day of campaigning. PTI, NIRMAL HARINDRAN

High-voltage campaigning for Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry, and bypolls in Goa, Karnataka, Tripura, and Nagaland ended on Tuesday. The polls are scheduled on April 9.

In Assam, leaders wound up a campaign marked by sharp rhetoric and personal attacks for the single-phase election to the 126-member Assembly.

The candidates made last-ditch efforts to convince voters with a flurry of road shows, rallies, and public meetings across the State. The most colourful of these were led by Bidisha Neog and Mira Borthakur Goswami of Congress, and Kunki Chowdhury of Assam Jatiya Parishad.

On Monday, Ms. Neog petitioned the Election Commission to cancel the candidature of her heavyweight rival, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, for "non-disclosure of foreign assets of his family" in his election affidavit.

Mr. Sarma, engaged in a bitter verbal battle with State Congress president Gaurav Gogoi, made a final appeal to the voters to re-elect the National Democratic Alliance for the State's future. "Your one vote will decide the fate of Assam – whether we want a bright future or one of darkness. Choose wisely, choose NDA," he wrote on social media.

In Kerala, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Leader of the Opposition V. D. Satheesan, and BJP State president Rajeev Chandrasekhar held press conferences.

Mr. Vijayan said the Left Democratic Front government has fulfilled 97% of its 2021 election promises.

In Puducherry, many constituencies might witness intense multi-cornered contests, with the outcome becoming increasingly unpredictable. The parties in fray include the BJP, the Congress, All India N.R. Congress, Left parties, DMK, and AIADMK among others.

In Tripura, campaigning for the Dharmanagar Assembly bypoll ended peacefully. However, there was tension in the Koridang (ST) Assembly constituency in Nagaland following reports of violence over the past 48 hours. In Goa, the Ponda Assembly constituency will go to bypolls as would the Davanagere South and Bagalkote Assembly seats in Karnataka.

Kharge must apologise for 'illiterate' remark: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Reacting sharply to the alleged remarks by Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on people from Gujarat, the BJP on Tuesday said he did not deserve to be the president of the principal Opposition party.

"Elections come and go, but has the Congress president abandoned all limits of propriety? This is the height of shamelessness and depravity," said BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad at a press conference.

Addressing an election rally in Kerala on Sunday, Mr. Kharge had said people of the State were "educated and clever" and could not be misled, unlike those who were "illiterate" in Gujarat. Mr. Prasad said several prominent figures, including Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel, Morarji Desai, and Vikram Sarabhai, hailed from the same Gujarat. He accused Mr. Kharge of making such a statement out of hatred for Prime Minister Modi.

"On behalf of the BJP, we demand that the Congress president apologise," he said.

War, waivers, trade pact likely to be on Misri's U.S. agenda

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Vikram Misri

Amid tensions over U.S. President Donald Trump's latest threats against Iran and the deadline for a deal set to end, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri arrived in Washington on Tuesday for a three-day visit from April 8. Officials said the visit was scheduled in advance and was expected to review the India-U.S. bilateral ties.

However, it is likely that multilateral issues, including the ongoing U.S.-Israel war with Iran, as well as U.S. sanctions waivers on Russian and Iranian oil, as well as for Chabahar Port, will be on the agenda. Of these, the U.S. government's sanctions waiver allowing the purchase of Russian oil and petroleum products is set to expire on April 11. Exemptions granted on Iranian oil purchase will expire on April 19, while that on India's development of Chabahar will expire on April 26. These will lapse unless the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) extends them.

In addition to these matters, Mr. Misri is likely to have discussions on the next steps in the India-U.S. Bilateral Trade Agreement talks, which have run aground after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Mr. Trump's tariffs in February, just weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Trump agreed to finalise the deal.

"During the visit, the Foreign Secretary will hold discussions with senior officials of the U.S. administration on a wide range of issues, including trade, defence, science and technology, as well as regional and global developments of mutual interest," the External Affairs Ministry said while announcing Mr. Misri's visit.

It added that he would review the "full spectrum of India-U.S. bilateral relations and advance ongoing cooperation across key areas".

Adani seeks dismissal of SEC case, cites overreach

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK

Billionaire Gautam Adani have moved a U.S. court seeking dismissal of a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's securities fraud lawsuit, arguing the case represents an impermissible extraterritorial application of U.S. law and fails for lack of jurisdiction.

The SEC had sued Mr. Adani and his nephew in 2024, claiming they misled investors by failing to disclose an alleged bribery scheme tied to Indian state officials. The Adanis argued that the court lacked personal jurisdiction, saying neither of them had sufficient contacts with the U.S. or direct involvement in the bond offering.

'Opposition failed to provide proof of charges against CEC'

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Gyanesh Kumar

Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla rejected notices moved by the Opposition MPs seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, holding that the Opposition failed to provide proof and the allegations levelled against him did not establish a *prima facie* case of "misbehaviour" as required under the Constitution.

A detailed 17-page order issued by the two presiding officers said the charges either lacked proof related to matters already adjudicated or were currently under judicial scrutiny. While the issues raised may be pertinent for political debate, the order noted that they did not meet the "high constitutional bar" necessary to initiate removal proceedings under Articles 324(5) and 124(4) of the Constitution or the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.

The notices, submitted on March 12, were signed by 63 Rajya Sabha and 130 Lok Sabha members and contained seven charges against the CEC. Each charge was examined and rebutted in the order.

Dismissed charges

On the allegation that Mr. Kumar's appointment was "tainted" as the law governing his selection under the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023 was under challenge in the Supreme Court, the Chair said the pendency of a constitutional challenge did not amount to misbehaviour. The claim that Mr. Kumar's previous postings reflected "deep executive embeddedness" was also dismissed, with the order noting that several former CECs had similar administrative background without any presumption of bias.

Another charge, that the Election Commission applied different standards to the government and the Opposition, was rejected for lack of "clear demonstrable evidence" of abuse of authority.

Allegations that the commission obstructed investigations into alleged electoral fraud by refusing to share information with State authorities were also dismissed. Similarly, the refusal to provide machine-readable electoral rolls to political parties was held to be in compliance with Supreme Court directions.

Several charges related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar and its proposed nationwide expansion. The Chair observed that the EC has plenary powers under Article 324 and that the Supreme Court had considered the exercise and affirmed the commission's competence.

Centre's plan for women's reservation follows UPA blueprint for OBC quota

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George
NEW DELHI

The late Arjun Singh designed the formula for OBC reservation in higher education.

The Centre is proposing a 50% expansion in the size of the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies to accommodate 33% reservation for women ahead of the 2029 general election. The math is such that incumbent lawmakers will be assured that their pathway to seeking re-election will not be narrowed due to a new social accommodation.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said during a campaign meeting in Kerala that assured representation for women would be achieved by creating additional seats. The government plans to increase the size of the Lok Sabha from 543 to 816 (a 50% increase in seats). There will be 273 additional seats, and 273, which is 33% of 816, will be reserved for women. The same math will apply at the State level too. For instance, Kerala will have its Lok Sabha seats increased from 20 to 30 with 10 seats reserved for women, Uttar Pradesh from 80 to 120, with 40 for women. The existing Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe reservation of 15% and 7% each will have one-third of them reserved for women of respective groups.

Enlarging the size of the pie before carving out a new social accommodation is not unprecedented. It was exactly in this manner that the UPA-I government implemented reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) in higher education in 2005-06 and it was a formula designed by then Education Minister Arjun Singh. He championed the expansion of reservation in higher education through the 93rd Constitutional Amendment Act and the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006, that mandated a 27% reservation for OBCs in central higher educational institutions (such as IITs, IIMs, and Central universities). To accommodate this, the government implemented a 54% expansion of seats over a three-year period, starting from the 2008-09 academic session, ensuring the number of seats available for the general category did not decline.

'Win-win' formula

Until then, the SC and ST reservations added up to 22.5% of the seats, and the rest were general category seats. The proposal was to accommodate OBC reservation without impacting the absolute number of general seats. The math in that situation meant that the total capacity of Central higher education institutions had to expand by 54% for the general category numbers to remain the same. In the pre-OBC reservation era, general category had 78 seats out of each 100, which remained the same when the total grew to 154, of which 49.5% was reserved.

In other words, what was 78% of 100 earlier, became 50.5% of 154. This avoided any decline in the number of seats for general category students while accommodating the OBC students by expanding the pie. Singh defended the reservation policy as a win-win for all stakeholders, as investment in higher education expanded massively, with several new IITs, IIMs and AIIMS coming up, and the intake of students increasing by 54% for the bulging youth population of the country.

The BJP formula of linking additional seats in the Lok Sabha for women's reservation takes a leaf out of the Arjun Singh playbook. Expansion in seats in higher education was long overdue then, as it is for the legislatures now.

APPEAL

Vetrivel is 5 years old suffering from "Burkitt Lymphoma High Risk" and needs Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is **Rs. 7,00,000/-**. His family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help him to have a bright future. Donations sent by Ch/D.D favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027. E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.**

WWS

ASSEMBLY POLLS

Aboard a bus from Mumbai to Kerala for vote

Kerala voters residing in Mumbai left for their home State on Tuesday to cast their vote for the Assembly election scheduled for Thursday.

Maharashtra Congress president Harshwardhan Sapkal, along with Amin Patel, MLA, flagged off the bus going to Kerala from Mumbai. "The elections are a celebration of democracy, and it is the responsibility of all of us to take democracy forward. It is a good thing that those from Kerala who are in Mumbai for their livelihood are returning to their native places to exercise their voting rights," Mr. Sapkal added.

Speaking on the coming Baramati Assembly byelection, the Congress leader termed as unnecessary the controversy surrounding his party's decision to field a candidate against Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar.

Maharashtra Congress chief Harshwardhan Sapkal flagged off the bus on Tuesday.

Assam tribal body calls for boycott of BJP

Ahead of the election on April 9, a tribal organisation from Assam has urged indigenous communities to either boycott the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) or deny it their vote.

In a statement on April 6, the All Assam Sons of the Soil Indigenous Kochari Somaj accused the BJP-led State government of neglecting and undermining tribal rights. It also said the government is trying to weaken their indigenous identity by placing six communities in a "protected class".

Those communities are Adivasi (tea tribes), Chutia, Koch-Rajbongshi, Matak, Moran, and Tai-Ahom. The existing tribes want the government to guarantee that their rights and privileges would not be eroded before granting the Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to these six communities.

> The Congress fighting on its own in Bengal after 20 years is a booster dose... In 2006, we fought solo, in 2026, we are fighting on our own strength.
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress leader

Mamata to file nomination in Bhabanipur

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's filing of nomination on Wednesday is being choreographed as a public assertion of Bhabanipur being a 'mini India', and West Bengal's pluralist identity. Ms. Banerjee wants her nomination to mirror the constituency's composite social character. PTI

> Mamata ji, I want to give you a suggestion. Do politics, but not politics of appeasement. Politics should be of satisfaction, not appeasement
>
> **RAJNATH SINGH**
> Union Minister and BJP leader

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma attends a poll rally in Jalukbari constituency. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Bid to win new voters in Assam CM Himanta's stronghold

Abdus Salam
GUWAHATI

A huge hoarding of '*Akou ebar BJP sorkar*' (BJP government once more) greets visitors as they emerge from the Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Assam's Guwahati. However, there's little else giving away the fact that it's election season here barring an odd party flag or empty booth. The road to the city is festooned with more welcome messages, flags and posters for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah during one of their numerous visits to inaugurate some project or lay the foundation stone for another – a hallmark of the BJP's signature style 'permanent campaign'. There's a cartographic change, this time, though.

The airport area now marks the western limits of Legislative Assembly Constituency 37, Jalukbari, the seat that has sent Himanta Biswa Sarma to the Assam Assembly without fail since 2001. The 2023 delimitation exercise has left the Chief Minister with a newer set of voters to woo. Some regions from the erstwhile Guwahati West constituency have been incorporated, some ceded to adjoining Assembly segments.

Places such as Agyathuri, Mandakata, and Changsari on the north bank of the Brahmaputra in Guwahati are out; and areas such as Azara, Dharapur, and Garigaon, an old village of more than 14,000 residents, are in.

Mr. Sarma filed his nomination papers on the very first day, March 20, after a massive roadshow. "I first contested from Jalukbari in 1996 and lost. Since 2001, I have been winning continuously. Despite delimitation changes, I believe I will continue to receive the blessings of the people," he said *en route*.

The Chief Minister is up against two other candidates, Bidisha Neog of the Congress and Dipika Das of the Bhumi Adhikar Party, contesting as an Independent.

Grooming Garigaon

Some locals are already sold on the idea of 'Himanta Biswa Sarma, MLA, Jalukbari', but the challenge for the BJP is to ensure healthy numbers in order to match or better the CM's six-figure margin from 2021. This is where Garigaon comes into play. Part of the peri-urban expansion of Guwahati, Garigaon and its fringes count caste Hindu Assamese and Bengali-origin Muslims among residents but it's *khilonjia* or *tholuwa* ('indigenous') Muslims who make up the majority.

"We are older than the Ahoms [who came to Assam in the medieval times and ruled for almost 600 years]. There's a mazar (shrine) of a Sufi saint in Garigaon that dates back to 700 A.D.," claims Hukum Shan Ali Boxi, the local councillor who was aligned with the Assam Jatiya Parishad earlier but is now firmly with the ruling party.

The party machinery has been put to work, he says. Membership has swelled in recent months and the area is witness to daily door-to-door campaigns and corner meets ahead of polling day, April 9.

There are visible changes in Garigaon since the 2023 delimitation: paved roads with street lights lined alongside. "The local youth clubs, graveyard and madrasa have received funds too," says Taher Ali, who runs a corner shop.

Iman Ali, in his seventies and a new member of the BJP Bishwabidyalaya Mandal Minority Morcha, concedes some old loyalists may still vote for the Congress.

Untested TVK adding suspense to the script of Tamil Nadu thriller this time

As Vijay's fledgling party makes its electoral debut two years after its founding, political observers say it could mirror the early performance of Vijayakanth's DMDK, securing 8-10% of vote share; some argue the film personality's popularity alone won't suffice for lasting political impact

IN FOCUS

B. Aravind Kumar
CHENNAI

It has been over two years since top Tamil actor Vijay launched his party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK). Yet, with no electoral debut so far, there is little clarity on the party's potential vote share in the upcoming Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Assembly elections.

Within the party, optimism runs high, with some functionaries informally projecting a vote share of around 25%. Outside, however, estimates vary widely. A section of observers believes the TVK could mirror the early performance of the late Vijayakanth's DMDK, securing 8-10% in its first outing. Others suggest the party could push closer to 15%.

Predicting electoral outcomes in Tamil Nadu has never been straightforward, particularly in Assembly elections. The entry of TVK and of Mr. Vijay, a political greenhorn with Chief Ministerial ambitions, has only complicated the arithmetic further.

The party skipped the previous Lok Sabha polls, and the February 2025 Erode (East) Assembly by-poll. Consequently, its actual support base remains untested. The party's decision to go it alone has set the stage for a four-cornered contest in Tamil Nadu.

Was this strategic restraint– avoiding early electoral exposure – a deliberate move by Mr. Vijay to keep his political capital intact ahead of a high-stakes debut?

"Mr. Vijay knows what he is doing. Like in his movies, he is going by the script in politics as well," said Professor G. Palanithurai, former Dean of Students' Welfare at Gandhigram Rural Institute.

Star-struck: TVK chief Vijay waves to supporters during a poll rally in Tiruchi. R. VENGADESH

Anti-corruption theme

There is a theory that Dravidian rhetoric has killed intellectualism in the State. Professor Palanithurai, who specialises in grassroots democracy, said he has been visiting campuses, and the lack of political discourse in higher education institutions has led to the youth gravitating towards the actor over time.

Besides, corruption has been regularised. The ruling DMK and Opposition AIADMK accuse each other of corruption but never take action against each other when in power.

"Mr. Vijay has sensed it. That is why he is focusing on an anti-corruption theme to attract voters. Vijayakanth also fought on the theme, but Mr. Vijay is more popular than Vijayakanth. He attracts huge crowds, especially youth. Even the ruling DMK can't bring in such crowds voluntarily," he said.

While crediting the Dravidian parties with their development policies, both social and industrial, the academic, however, said politics had now become corrupt.

"Mr. Vijay is a film personality. He understands the psychology of the masses. The rule of law has now become the ruling party's law. That is why he is taking on the ruling governments," he added.

"On the flip side, unlike [actor-turned-Chief Ministers] MGR and Jayalalithaa, Mr. Vijay is not close to the rank and file. He is in isolation all the time. Also, the TVK's second line of leadership is not impressive. However, Tamil Nadu's peculiar politics lacks a collective leadership as Dravidianism has shown the way to herding. Mass appeal counts," he asserted. Against the ideologically inclined DMK and politically masterful M. Karunanidhi, it was the personal charisma and political acumen of MGR and Jayalalithaa that had kept the AIADMK in power for a longer time than its arch-rival. Mr. Vijay seems to be gradually filling the charismatic leaders' role.

But is that adequate to penetrate the world of politics?

"Popularity in cinema doesn't always bring votes. We can't draw a parallel between Mr. Vijay and MGR. The latter had a strong hold in the party, and he broke ranks while he was the treasurer of the DMK. He campaigned and worked hard for all those years. He also brought the underprivileged and the subaltern into his movies. The titles *Vivasayi*, *Padagotti* and *Meenava Nanban* would resonate with communities," said P. Ramajayam, an academic.

"Grassroots politics requires social and political mobilisation, involving several groups like minorities and subalterns", he said.

Political observers feel that apart from the mass appeal, the party needs social and political mobilisation. The TVK should have a strength of 300 to 400 cadre per booth to secure around 100 votes each. If the party garners 15% of votes, Mr. Vijay would have a future as a politician.

"Mr. Vijay is certainly a large crowd puller, and the crowds are organic. Only two leaders do not pay for crowds– [Naam Tamilar Katchi's] Seeman and Mr. Vijay," said R. Kannan, biographer of former Chief Ministers C.N. Annadurai and MGR.

Asked if Mr. Vijay would succeed, he says, "May 4 [election counting date] will give the answer."

'How can Bengal election be fair when so many genuine voters have been left out?'

Why did the BJP-led Centre have to go so deep to disenfranchise so many people if it is so confident of winning the State, asks the West Bengal Minister and three-time Trinamool MLA, who, like many other voters, has faced adjudication post SIR

INTERVIEW

Shashi Panja

Shrabana Chatterjee
Shiv Sahay Singh

Close to a month after her residence was vandalised allegedly by BJP workers, West Bengal Minister of Women and Child Development, and Industries and Commerce and senior Trinamool Congress leader Shashi Panja speaks on crucial issues shaping the coming Assembly election. Edited excerpts:

ANI

Your house came under attack on March 14. Did you ever think you would personally become a victim of political violence?

We knew that the BJP is a violent party, it's politics is very shallow. But this was a new low. It was total hooliganism and they are proud about what they did. What surprises me most is the cowardice. You have a lady in front of you; you can't come running with a brick and thump it in her stomach. They did it on a day when the Prime Minister was in the city.

You are a senior leader in the party and three-time MLA and Minister as well. What do you think of the 2026 election? And how do you think it is different from the 2021 election?

If the BJP, which says '*hum log aarahe hain*' (we will come to power), is so confident of winning this election, then why did you actually have to do an SIR (special intensive revision)? You do a routine intensive revision like you did in Assam. Why did you have to go so deep to disenfranchise so many people? That means what you say and what you believe is so different. They put me, a three-time elected MLA, under adjudication [after SIR citing discrepancies and cleared eventually] with what intent? I am a registered voter. Otherwise, why would I be elected or even stand for elections? If they could logically adjudicate me, just what have they done to others?

We can shout and scream, or we can go to court, but it takes time. *Didi* [Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee] went to court over SIR. People are getting harassed. But still you're trying to cover up with a larger narrative to say, "*Muslims hain, ghuspetiya hain* (They are Muslims and infiltrators)."

If we take your constituency, Shyampukur, about 44,000 voters have been excluded, do you think it is affecting the level playing field?

We all want free and fair elections. But where is fairness when you have got rid of so many legal voters? And regarding free elections, I mean, it's so unfortunate. They say we do Muslim appeasement. But during Ram Navami, we saw people armed with swords, and *Ram Ka Bhakti Geet* on DJ remixes. So, it is basically hyper-exhibitionism. The electorate here will not be like this.

Even if they delete voters, if they [BJP] can lose Ayodhya [in the 2024 Lok Sabha election], they can lose anywhere.

Your party has devised many women-centric schemes to cater to women voters. Can you elaborate on that?

Lakshmi Bhandar is a scheme with a financial incentive; it is hugely popular and has reached over 2.42 crore women. It's her money. It's her bank account. It's a single bank account, not a joint account with someone. It gives financial literacy and '*samman*' (respect). Something that has been copied in multiple other States, including the BJP-ruled ones.

One of BJP's campaigns is on the crimes against women in the State. With the party fielding the mother of the R.G. Kar victim , what kind of political messaging is it sending?

I was on the ground because R.G. Kar (Hospital and Medical College) is not very far away from where I stay and also not far from my constituency. I am an alumnus of R.G. Kar. So, I have seen those days and nights when there was spontaneous outpouring of grief and sympathy for the victim (referring to the doctor who was raped and murdered in 2024.)

We also faced criticism. We had condemned the incident. Who would want such a thing to happen? We have nothing to say on the mother of the victim deciding to step into politics on BJP ticket. It's her choice. Even when the incident happened, we did not evade our responsibilities. Kolkata Police arrested the culprit. The CBI could not unearth anything more.

(Full interview at newsth.live/WBpolls)

Elect BJP for a '*Sonar* Bengal', says Bihar leader

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister, Samrat Choudhary, on Tuesday urged the people of West Bengal to extend their support to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to transform the State back into a '*Sonar* Bengal'.

Mr. Choudhary asserted that the BJP was committed to expelling the infiltrators, establishing democracy and restoring Bengali identity and pride.

Mr. Choudhary was in Howrah to attend the nomination filing of several candidates contesting the West Bengal Assembly election.

"Just as West Bengal played the most pivotal role in the struggle for independence, Bengali society is now ready to rise and overthrow the Mamata [Banerjee] government – a regime characterised by its support for infiltrators, anti-Hindu stance, and anarchic governance," Mr. Choudhary said.

Mr. Choudhary pledged that just as the Bihar government had provided government jobs and employment opportunities to five million people over the past five years, similar large-scale job creation initiatives would be undertaken in West Bengal as well.

Fast breeder nuclear reactor at Kalpakkam takes 'critical' leap forward

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Marking a significant step forward in India's nuclear power programme, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, via a post on social media platform X late on Monday said that the prototype fast breeder reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Chennai, had achieved "criticality". This means that the nuclear reaction in the reactor had become safely self-sustaining, and was on its way to being able to produce electricity.

"Today India takes a defining step in its civil nuclear journey advancing the second stage of its nuclear programme...the PFBR at Kalpakkam has attained criticality...it is a decisive step towards harnessing our vast thorium reserves," Mr. Modi posted.

While it will be some months before the PFBR is powered up to its full capacity, and even longer before it produces useful electricity, multiple experiments have to be conducted at low power to check if it's running as expected, which must be evaluated by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board before it grants a go-ahead for commercial power operation, this the beginning of the second stage of India's nuclear programme.

Since it was first formally approved as a project by the government in 2003, the PFBR at Kalpakkam has taken over two decades to reach this stage.

PFBR as a bridge

India's nuclear reactors are heavily dependent on imported uranium. The country's three-stage programme, conceived in the 1950s, envisages being able to be independent of imported uranium, creating its own stockpile of suitable uranium, and eventually harnessing thorium, of which it has vast stores. The PFBR development serves as an essential bridge.

"This is a historic moment," Anil Kakodkar, Member, Atomic Energy Commission and former head of the Department of Atomic Energy, told *The Hindu*, adding, "What this means is that we are now on our way to extract 80-100 times more energy from a given quantity of uranium."

The PFBR is a 500 MW sodium-cooled, pool-type fast breeder reactor designed by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research and built by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited, both operating under the Department of Atomic Energy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi witnesses initiation of core loading of indigenous prototype fast breeder reactor at Kalpakkam. PTI

Uranium powerhouse

India's pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWR) burn up uranium to produce electricity and small quantities of plutonium. However, less than 1% of the energy from this uranium (that can be used as heat and make electricity) is extracted from these reactors. The 'depleted' uranium in India isn't considered 'waste' but is reprocessed and stored. It, however, cannot be used back in the existing PHWRs.

"The PFBR reactor is designed to use the 'spent' uranium from the PHWR as well as produce more plutonium. We are no longer using fresh, mined uranium here. As a thumb rule, this means that the 1% energy extracted can go up to nearly 10% for a single cycle and for every additional cycle 10% more. The efficiency of the uranium that is mined goes up substantially, Ravi Grover, Member, Atomic Energy Commission, told *The Hindu*.

"The burn-up or the energy extracted goes from about 8,000 units (in a PHWR) to nearly 100,000 units," Mr. Grover said.

Two more reactors

India's current plan, Mr. Grover said, was to construct two more PFBR at Kalpakkam, though this would only be following a proper assessment of the performance of the PFBR for a year. In the current scheme of things, the PFBR will produce only "marginally more" plutonium.

"Our current priority is to use the uranium that we have far more efficiently. There is a reprocessing plant to come up on site at Kalpakkam which will use the processed spent fuel from the PFBR and for the two future PFBR. The PFBR will use depleted uranium (from the Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors or PHWRs).

In the future, we will use thorium, but that is still a long time away, and what kind of reactors we will use for that, we need more work and have to wait and watch," he said, adding, "These reactors are self-sustaining but as and when we need more plutonium in the future, the design has to be optimised to extract more plutonium."

Currently, India has a fleet of 18-20 PHWRs that use natural uranium as fuel and produce plutonium-239 (Pu-239) as a by-product in spent fuel. India's full fleet of 23 nuclear reactors have a combined capacity of 7.48 GW. India hopes to have 100 GW by 2047 and this is premised on a larger fleet of Bharat Small Modular Reactors (which are scaled down PHWR) that are in the pipeline.

A significant technological challenge that has led to delays in the PFBR is the use of liquid sodium as a coolant to manage the extremely high heat from fissioning uranium atoms in the PFBR. In India's current reactors, the heat is largely absorbed by 'heavy water', or in some cases, ordinary water. Once fully operational, the PFBR is expected to generate 500 MW of electricity, with a design life of 40 years.

INBRIEF

5-kg LPG quota doubled amid Hormuz tensions

The government has doubled the daily quota of market-priced 5-kg LPG cylinders for migrant workers as part of a broader push to stabilise fuel supplies amid disruptions linked to tensions around the Strait of Hormuz. Unlike the subsidised 14.2-kg cylinders that are used in household kitchens for cooking, the 5-kg bottles are priced at market rates. A 5-kg cylinder costs ₹549 in Delhi as against the ₹913 price for a 14.2-kg domestic cylinder. The 5-kg cylinders are available across-the-counter at LPG distributorships on production of an identity card. With the war in West Asia disrupting energy supplies, the government has prioritised gas to households as the cost of commercial users, who were initially given only 20% of their requirement and in steps raised to 70%.

Govt. extends halt on TV news TRP by four more weeks

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has extended the suspension of Television Rating Point (TRP) reporting for TV news channels by four more weeks, or until further directions. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on March 6 asked the Broadcast Audience Research Council to suspend the publication of TRP ratings for news channels. The order had previously been issued for four weeks, or until further directions, in view of the "unwarranted sensationalism" surrounding coverage of the war between the United States, Israel, and Iran. The policy guidelines says, "The company shall be required to comply with any orders etc., issued by the Ministry from time to time."

NCERT reconstitutes textbook committee after top court rap

Michel Danino, former guest professor at IIT-Gandhinagar, among three dropped; IIT-Madras Director, ex-NLSIU V-C part of 20-member team

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

The National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee (NSTC), which overlooks the formulation of new textbooks, has been reconstituted by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), following the Supreme Court's intervention on a section of "corruption in the judiciary" in the now-discontinued Class 8 social science textbook.

In an April 2 notification, accessed by *The Hindu*, the NCERT stated that it had reconstituted the 22-member high power committee, which now includes IIT-Madras Director V. Kamakoti; Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) Chairman Raghuvendra Tanwar; R. Venkata Rao, former Vice-Chancellor of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU); and Amarendra Prasad Behera, Joint Director-in-Charge, Central Institute of Educational Technology, NCERT. The committee now consists of 20 members

Michel Danino

Three members – Michel Danino, former guest Professor at IIT-Gandhinagar; M.D. Srinivas, Chairman of the Centre for Policy Studies, Chennai; and the late Bibek Debroy, former Chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC) – have been removed from the NSTC.

Mr. Danino's removal from the NSTC comes after the top court's order stating that the Centre, States, Union Territories, universities, and public institutions should dissociate themselves from three members of the textbook development team who drafted the Class 8 social science textbook chapter under question.

Mr. Danino, in an affidavit filed in the court on April 4, said that the implication by the NCERT that the chapter was drafted exclusively by three individuals alone (including Mr. Danino) gave an inaccurate picture and that the textbook was the result of a "collective and collaborative" process. "A Google group with over 40 members was established early on, as a well-oiled mechanism to overcome geographical constraints and regularly share and discuss drafts across Curricular Area Group - Social Science members and others. This group was used to share successive versions of the chapter the Judiciary on 01.09.2025, 23.10.2025, 04.11.2025 and 03.12.2025," Mr. Danino stated in his affidavit.

The NCERT has retained former National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration Chancellor M.C. Pant as the Chairperson, along with Princeton University maths Professor Manjul Bhargava as the co-Chairperson in the reconstituted NSTC. The other 14 members of the old committee, including Infosys Foundation chairperson Sudha Murty; singer Shankar Mahadevan; Chamu Krishna Shastry, chairman, Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti; EAC-PM member Sanjeev Sanyal, have been retained.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman, left, being welcomed upon his arrival in Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

Bangladesh Foreign Minister arrives in Delhi, meets Doval

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman arrived here on Tuesday. This is the first high-level bilateral visit from Bangladesh in more than a year, although Mr. Rahman, who was National Security Adviser in the interim government of that country, had travelled to Delhi in November 2025 for a regional meeting.

Mr. Rahman met National Security Adviser Ajit Doval for dinner on Tuesday in a start to his official interactions.

During his stay here, from April 7 to 9, Mr. Rahman is expected to hold several other meetings with top officials of the Indian government, including his counterpart, Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

"India and Bangladesh share warm and historic ties anchored in strong people-to-people relations. The visit will further bolster India-Bangladesh partnership," Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry, said, welcoming Mr. Rahman, who is accompanied by Humayun Kobir, Foreign Affairs Adviser to Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman.

Mr. Rahman and Mr. Kobir were received by B. Shyam, Joint Secretary of the External Affairs Ministry's Bangladesh-Myanmar division, and the High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Riaz Hamidullah.

A lunch meeting will be hosted for Mr. Rahman at Hyderabad House on Wednesday by Mr. Jaishankar.

Mr. Rahman will also meet Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

'Records on caste census decision can't be disclosed'

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Union government has stated that records of the Inter-Ministerial deliberations, inputs, and suggestions referred to in making the decision to enumerate caste in the 2027 Census are exempt from public disclosure under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

Responding to a request for these records filed by *The Hindu* under the RTI Act, the Union Cabinet Secretariat said that these records were exempt from disclosure under Section 8(1)(i) of the 2005 law. This section says the government is not obligated to disclose Cabinet papers, provided that "the matter is over" or "complete"; and provided that "the decisions of Council of Ministers, the reasons thereof, and the material on the basis of which the decisions were taken shall be made public after the decision has been taken".

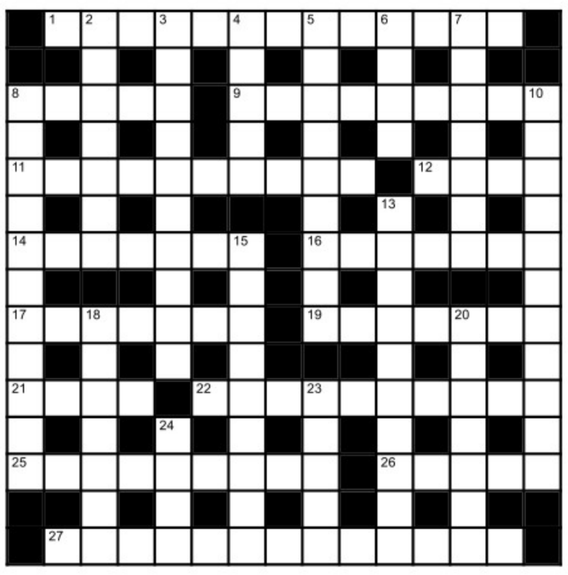
On April 30, the Centre posted a statement, saying, "Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs has decided to include caste enumeration in the upcoming Census." On March 25, responding to requests for information on records relied upon for this decision, the Cabinet Secretariat said, "The information sought is exempted from disclosure under Section 8(1)(i) of the RTI Act."

TH CROSSWORD + 14762

(set by Dr. X)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Pen pal is upset about American leader's bluntness (5,8)
8 Calls topless escorts (5)
9 Miss Japan picked up by champion in American club (9)
11 Old-fashioned person, one giving spinal anaesthesia? (4,6)
12 Expert checking teen's latest skin condition (4)
14 Unknown tramp in base beginning to eat mushroom (7)
16 Emblem over sides of simple historical torch (7)
17 Write about old jerk showing favouritism (7)
19 Holy place in Muscat renovated around end of Ramadan (7)
21 Mongrel beginning to bite, getting muzzle (4)
22 Guests on island primarily getting loose motion (10)
25 Researcher analysed onset of cancer in testis (9)
26 American associate touring most prosperous city in Chile (5)
27 Raged at elderly doc outside hospital in a callous manner (4-9)

Down

2 Fancy place has new, special camera accessory (4,3)
3 Complete details of a nudist streaking at opening on ground (3,3,4)
4 Oily secretion from small whitehead essentially on butt (5)
5 Disappears from scene, vigorously cutting guard in retreat (9)
6 Xhaka, Kane welcoming former Brazilian footballer (4)
7 Suggestions by star about tackling bad acne (7)
8 Turns head to stare as masseur kisses amorously (11)
10 Urge to steal opal, take money in jars (11)
13 Serves gin cocktail, hosting a preview of art exhibition (10)
15 Old cryptic clue is very elegant (9)
18 Colonnade in dock essentially built by company (7)
20 Minor in contest, having endless energy (7)
23 Reptile in bog at Oregon (5)
24 Set up banquet in American city (4)

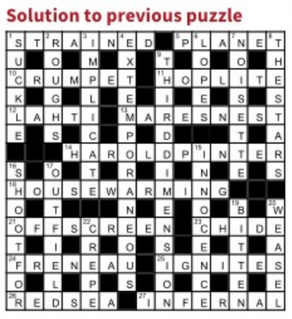
SUDOKU

	5		1	7				
		1		2		6		9
3						7		
5		4	7		6	9		2
		2						8
9		6		3		2		
				8	1		5	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS6844 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	5	2	1	8	3	6	4	7
4	8	7	9	6	5	2	1	3
1	6	3	2	4	7	8	9	5
7	9	8	5	1	4	3	6	2
6	2	5	3	7	9	4	8	1
3	4	1	8	2	6	7	5	9
8	7	9	6	3	1	5	2	4
5	3	6	4	9	2	1	7	8
2	1	4	7	5	8	9	3	6

FAITH

Revered saint Nammazhvar

There lived in Thirukkurugur a ruler named Kari. His wife Udayanangai was from the sacred town of Thiruvanparisaram, a town near Nagercoil. The pious couple were sorrowful, because they had no children. They worshipped Lord Nambi of Thirukkurungudi, praying for progeny. The Lord told them that He Himself would be born as their son, said V.S. Karunakaracharier in a discourse. Soon, Udayanangai became pregnant. The son who was born to her was the avatara of Viswaksena, and was the revered saint Nammazhvar. Nammazhvar was born in the star of Visakha in the month of Vaikasi. A gas known as *satam* is supposed to cloud one's intelligence at birth. Nammazhvar conquered this *satam*, and hence is called Satakopa.

But Nammazhvar was unlike other babies, for he did not drink milk. He didn't seem to feel hungry. He did not cry either. The worried parents took the child to the shrine of Adinatha Perumal of Thirukkurugur. They laid the baby at the feet of Lord Adinatha. To the astonishment of everyone, Nammazhvar got up and did a circumambulation of the temple. In the *prakara*, there was a tamarind tree, with a hollow. The infant jumped into the hollow and remained there. He did not respond when people spoke to him. He still continued to do without food and meditated. It was to this place that Madhurakavi Azhvar came later, looking for a guru. Madhurakavi posed a philosophical question to Nammazhvar. The latter's reply convinced Madhurakavi that Nammazhvar was the guru he was looking for. Nammazhvar wrote four works: Thiruvirutham, Thiruvasiriyam, Peria Thiruvandadi and Thiruvaimozhi. His four works give us the essence of the four Vedas.

DEEP TECH SUMMIT

Latest tech: A race car with advanced technology on display at the summit. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Question time: Participants interacting with a panellist at the summit in Chennai on Tuesday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Snapshot moment: Visitors taking a photo at the Deep Tech Summit . B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Immersive experience: Students visiting the expo stall at the summit. B..VELANKANNI RAJ

Leaders weigh in on why Indian healthcare cannot function in silos

(From left) Puhazhendi Kaliyappan, Medical Devices Consultant and Adviser; Dr. Vishal Gandhi, Founder and CEO, BIO, Rx, Chief Investment Officer - Indian Healthcare Angels; Aravind Ganesan, CTO, Kauvery Hospital; Senthil Kumar Rajendran, Investor, Partner, Mentor and Adviser and Koushik Ramani, Managing Partner and Co-Founder, NetworkGain Consulting. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Experts speak on what the future of healthcare must look like – integrated, adaptive, and human

At *The Hindu* Deep Tech Summit 2026 on Tuesday, a quiet but decisive shift in thinking took centre stage – the end of silos in healthcare cannot afford to be theoretical, it has to be operational. At the panel on 'Convergence of Disciplines: End of Traditional Engineering Silos', moderated by Koushik Ramani, managing partner and co-founder, NetworkGain Consulting, voices from medicine, technology, and venture capital converged to outline what the future of healthcare must look like – integrated, adaptive, and deeply human.

For Puhazhendi Kaliyappan, a leading medical devices consultant and adviser, the transformation is already under way. The traditional pillars of healthcare – pharma, in-vitro diagnostics, and medical devices – are dissolving into one another. Technologies once treated as standalone products are now components feeding into larger, AI-driven systems focused on outcomes. "Everything is becoming outcome-driven," he said, pointing to shifts, including home-based care, community-level screening, and even emerging diagnostics based on smell. The question, he argued, is no longer about devices, but infrastructure – how do we build healthcare into everyday spaces like homes and apartments?

'Uniquely complex'

From the hospital floor, Aravind Ganesan, chief technology officer of Kauvery Hospital, grounded this vision in reality. "It's actually nonsensical to build in silos in healthcare," he said, emphasising that systems designed without doctors or patients in mind inevitably fail. Healthcare, he noted, is uniquely complex – serving both doctor and patient as "a unit of one". Without integrating clinical workflows and addressing workforce shortages, even the most advanced technologies risk irrelevance.

For Vishal Gandhi, founder and CEO, BIO Rx and chief investment officer at the Indian Healthcare Angels, convergence is not new – it is foundational. Trained in biotechnology, he described a discipline inherently built at the intersection of physics, chemistry, and biology. What has changed, he said, is scale and speed. With AI entering drug discovery, the industry is beginning to de-risk a historically high-failure process. From reducing dependence on animal trials to enabling precision medicine and surgery, "You are the real doctor," Dr. Gandhi said, pointing toward a future of real time, personalised healthcare powered by data.

Need for coordination

Yet, technology alone cannot guarantee impact. Senthil Kumar Rajendran, investor, partner, mentor and adviser, warned that without coordination, even the most sophisticated systems collapse into irrelevance. As AI blurs boundaries, value lies not in isolated innovation but in connected ecosystems. "If your systems are not built to solve coordination, the purpose itself goes for a toss," he said, adding that healthcare remains a "black horse"–not just financially, but in its potential to transform lives.

That transformation is already reshaping care delivery. Hospitals, Mr. Ganesan said, may soon evolve into distributed care networks, with routine monitoring shifting to homes through wearables and connected devices. What we call healthcare today, Mr. Rajendran added, has largely been "sick care" – reactive rather than preventive. The next decade could reverse that.

Underlying it all was a simple but powerful reminder – healthcare is not a hardware problem, or a software problem; it is a human problem. And human problems, by nature, refuse to stay in silos.

More than 70% of the funding for R&D comes from government, says panel

Experts from government, academia, venture capital firms say private sector's limited stake reveals both caution and a systemic gap; they add that for early-stage start-ups, the pathway is clearer than before, but not necessarily easier, and caution against losing originality in race to follow trends

Siddhi Nawar
CHENNAI

Leading voices: (From left) Vibha Malhotra Sawhney, Head, Technology Management Directorate and Innovation Protection Unit, CSIR; Sridhar Bharathwaj, Founder, Exponential Integration VC Pvt Ltd; Ramanan Ramanathan, Chairperson - National Expert Advisory Council on Technology, Innovation and Incubation of Department of Science and Technology; Rishi Dewan, Associate, StartUp India; Ashwin Mahalingam, co-founder, Okapi Research Advisory and Professor, IIT-Madras; and N. Nagaraj, Vice-President, Digital Media, *The Hindu*. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Commencing conversations on day two of *The Hindu* Deep Tech Summit 2026 on Tuesday, a familiar question took on a new urgency: who carries the risk of innovation in India, and who should? At the panel, "The State as a De-risker: Aligning Academic Excellence with National Strategic Mission", voices from government, academia and venture capital firms converged to confront diverging issues. The session was moderated by N. Nagaraj, Vice-President of Digital Media at *The Hindu*.

At the heart of the conversation was a striking imbalance. "More than 70% of R&D funding comes from the government," noted Ramanan Ramanathan, Chairperson of the National Expert Advisory Council on Technology, Innovation and Incubation, Department of Science and Technology, calling it a "sad fact". For a country aspiring to lead in deep-tech, the private sector's limited stake reveals both caution and a systemic gap.

Yet, the state is stepping in decisively. Sridhar Bharathwaj, founder, Exponential Integration VC Pvt. Ltd, pointed out that the government is now absorbing early-stage technological risk – Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 1 to 3 – validating ideas before they reach the market. But the real gap, he argued, lies beyond validation, where founders must translate research into business. Innovation alone is not enough; founders must think in terms of value, returns and scale.

For early-stage start-ups, the pathway is clearer than before, but not necessarily easier. Rishi Dewan, Associate at Startup India, emphasised that the first step is often recognition – formal acknowledgement that unlocks funding, mentorship and infrastructure. Still, access remains layered, requiring founders to navigate an evolving policy ecosystem.

The bigger risk

Vibha Malhotra Sawhney, Head, Technology Management Directorate (TMD) and Innovation Protection Unit, CSIR, offered a long-term view. India's risk appetite, she said, had grown significantly over the past decade, particularly among young entrepreneurs. But capital is only one part of the equation. The bigger risk, she cautioned, is losing originality in the race to follow trends.

Ashwin Mahalingam, Professor at IIT-Madras, and co-founder of Okapi Research and Advisory Pvt Ltd., introduced a necessary provocation. Universities, he argued, must remain spaces for "unabashedly theoretical" inquiry, because fundamental science underpins every major technological leap – from semiconductors to artificial intelligence.

The danger lies in chasing incremental, "substitute innovations" instead of pursuing breakthroughs.

Dr. Ramanathan called for a cultural shift within universities, urging institutions to move beyond publications and placements toward problem-solving ecosystems.

SRM will set up tech, research park by 2027: Shantanu Sudhakar Patil

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Shantanu Sudhakar Patil, Director, entrepreneurship & innovation, SRMIST, and R. Kalpana Sastry, Scientist, Agri-Food Innovation Consultant, Executive Director, STEM on Tuesday. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Students from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities are quite keen on start-ups, but many are constrained either by limited access to funding or geographical barriers, according to Shantanu Sudhakar Patil, an orthopaedic physician and director of entrepreneurship and innovation at the SRM Institute of Science and Technology. In order to bridge this gap, SRMIST has established a rural-tech incubator at its agricultural campus, he said.

He was speaking at *The Hindu* Deep Tech Summit on Tuesday, in a fireside chat with R. Kalpana Sastry, a scientist, agri-food innovation consultant, and executive director of the Society for Technology Management (STEM), on the topic of 'Leveraging a multi-disciplinary university ecosystem for enabling the deep-tech revolution'.

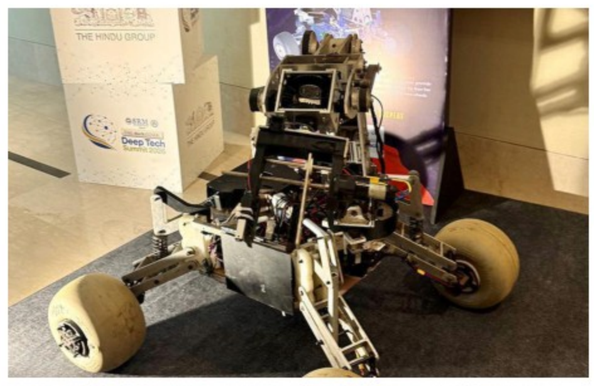
'Open to ideas'

"We are open to anyone who approaches us with an innovative idea, strong team and adequately developed business plan, who doesn't have to be a faculty member or a final year student.. Apart from this, we are encouraging students from all colleges, including students from schools, to build start-ups," said Dr. Patil. "We have also introduced design thinking for faculty, so that they can identify the problem first before looking for a solution," he added.

Citing data on research and development investments in India, Dr. Sastry said that though there is a lot of research with potential to be converted into spin-offs, there are very few university-led spin-offs across the country. To address this concern, Dr. Patil said that access to the right technological ecosystem is critical. "Learning from what IIT Madras Research Park has done, we are also replicating an SRM Technology and Research Park which will be up and running by the end of 2027," he added.

One of the university's priorities is women-led initiatives in entrepreneurship. "About six of our start-ups in BioNEST are women-led, which is a start," he said.

Innovation is the buzzword at Deep Tech Summit 2026



Talent on display: Team Rudra from SRMIST displays its Mars rover at the summit. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

From agriculture to healthcare, aspiring entrepreneurs on Tuesday showcased innovations at *The Hindu* Deep Tech Summit 2026, reflecting a growing ambition to enter the entrepreneurship ecosystem.

At his stall, Gokula Kannan K., co-founder and director of Valyria Visions Private Limited, said, "Our start-up through its platform Phenolens focuses on solving a very fundamental but ignored problem in India's ₹25 lakh crore crop credit system – banks are lending without actually knowing what is happening on the ground."

"Today, loan approvals depend on field visits, paper records, and assumptions. Phenolens replaces this with satellite-based intelligence that verifies land boundaries, confirms whether crops actually exist, measures acreage, and generates a risk score within two to three minutes, even before a loan is disbursed. It also continues monitoring crops after disbursal, helping banks act before defaults happen," he added.

Surender Sundaram's Propel Tech Innovations, incubated a year ago, focuses on the "testing and development of advanced defence technologies, with focus on material science, aerospace, and robotics." The start-up is trying to address the defence sector's reliance on procuring components from other countries.

Tamirabot, founded by its director Velayutham S., develops and manufactures next-generation electric vehicle charging connectors for fast-charging application. "We have our patented technology for boosting the charging efficiency by 7.8% by reducing the thermal rate build-up within the connectors that causes energy loss and lifetime of the connector," he said. Team Rudra from SRMIST displayed its rover at the summit. The team builds Mars rover prototypes from the scratch every year.

Several start-ups got expression of interest after pitches: Ananth Kumar

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Curtain call: Ananth Kumar, Associate Director DEI, SRMIST offering the vote of thanks on Tuesday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Curtains came down on *The Hindu Deep Tech Summit 2026*, held in collaboration with SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST), after two days of insightful discussions and exchanges on emerging trends in the deep-tech space.

The event brought together industry leaders, innovators, and academics to explore the future of cutting-edge technologies. Thanking *The Hindu* for curating this summit, Ananth Kumar, Associate Director, Directorate of Entrepreneurship and Innovation (DEI), SRMIST, pointed out that apart from institutions like IIT-Madras Research Park, private universities are also contributing towards deep-tech.

He also mentioned that boardroom pitches were done with firms which are in pre-revenue, revenue stage and those looking for capital for scaling their ventures. "We had a panel of investors who thoroughly analysed each of the pitches. And five out of ten start-ups have got expression of interest," he added.

INBRIEF

Govt. plans ₹2.5 lakh crore credit guarantee scheme

The Centre is considering a ₹2.5 lakh crore credit guarantee scheme to support businesses, especially MSMEs impacted by the West Asia crisis, sources said. Under the scheme, a credit guarantee of about 90% on loans of up to ₹100 crore would be provided to lenders in case of default by borrowers due to the ongoing U.S.-Iran conflict. The guarantee on bank loans would be provided by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC). PTI

India said to plan sovereign guarantees for insurers

India is planning sovereign guarantees to support insurers that provide cover for vessels travelling in the Persian Gulf, as the West Asia war increases the risks to shipping, said government and industry sources familiar with the matter. The plan includes a $1.5 billion sovereign guarantee fund to provide insurers with reinsurance support and liquidity should insurance costs remain high, said one government source. REUTERS

IRDAI forms panel to review private health cover facets

IRDAI has constituted a sub-committee of the Insurance Advisory Committee to review the current landscape of private health insurance in India. Coverage, penetration, claims experience, product design, grievance redressal and consumer experience will form part of the review. The sub-committee will recommend measures to promote innovation, wider coverage, better risk pooling, and improved financial protection via health insurance.

Share of West Asia oil imports rose to 54% just before war

Latest govt. data show India imported nearly 91% of its crude oil requirement in February 2026, a historic high; Of this, more than half came from West Asia, supplies that are now constrained

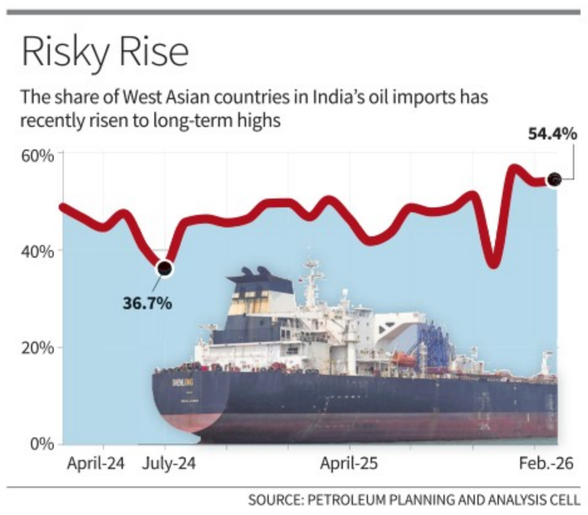
T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India entered the energy crisis brought on by the Iran war particularly susceptible to disruptions in West Asia, the latest government data show.

Not only was India importing nearly 91% of its crude oil requirements as of February 2026, a historic high, but more than 54% of these imports came from West Asian countries – their second-highest share in nearly 3.5 years.

The analysis by *The Hindu* of data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows that the volume of India's total oil imports in February 2026 increased nearly 33% to 205.3 lakh tonnes over February last year.

That is, India imported a third more oil in February 2026 than it did a year earlier. Further, according to data with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, India's oil imports accounted for 90.8% of the total oil processed by Indian refineries in February 2026, up from an already historically-high 90.2% in the first half of 2025-26.



SOURCE: PETROLEUM PLANNING AND ANALYSIS CELL

Not only has India's dependence on oil imports risen, but it has also recently increased its dependence on the West Asian region. This has come as it had, until the outbreak of the war in West Asia, sought to reduce Russian oil imports in line with demands from the U.S. Russia's share in the volume of oil India imports rose to 26.5% in February 2026, but was still significantly lower than the peak of 40.2% it had reached in May last year.

On the other hand, the share of oil imports from India's West Asian sources – Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, and Qatar – rose to a combined 54.4% in February 2026. Apart from December 2025, when this figure hit 56.8%, this was their highest share since September 2022.

However, those sources are now constrained due to the war, with officials in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry confirming to *The Hindu* that India's oil imports from Russia have increased "big time" in March 2026, but this time without the benefit of the discount Russia was earlier providing. The official data on India's oil imports in March will be released in early May.

Expensive oil

The data show that not only was India importing a large quantity of oil in the lead up to the U.S.-Israel war on Iran, but that it was also benefiting from a crash in prices. The price of the Indian basket of crude oil in February 2026 stood at $69 per barrel.

Prices had averaged about $78 in the previous financial year.

The Indian basket comprises a weighted average of prices of different grades of oil in Oman and Dubai, along with the price of Brent.

Air India hikes fuel surcharge for second time in a month; announces CEO's exit

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Campbell Wilson

A week after oil marketing companies revised aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices, Air India has yet again raised fuel surcharges, pushing the fixed domestic slab from ₹400 to as much as ₹899, while international surcharges have increased by up to ₹7,400 on long-haul routes such as North America and Australia. The airline also announced the resignation of CEO Campbell Wilson as part of a planned transition.

While ATF prices for international flights nearly doubled to ₹2.07 lakh per kilolitre, the government stepped in to cushion the impact on domestic travel, capping the increase at 25% to ₹1.04 lakh per kilolitre. Tuesday's surcharge hike by Air India is its second in less than a month.

The airline has replaced the earlier flat ₹400 levy on all domestic flights with a distance-based, tiered structure starting at ₹299 for sectors under 500 km and rising to ₹899 for routes of 2,000 km or more. On international routes, where ATF prices have surged nearly 100%, the increases are sharper.

The surcharge for Gulf routes has been raised from $10 to $50, for Europe from $125 to $205, and for North America and Australia from $200 to $280. Since March 12, and as of Tuesday, fuel surcharges on Gulf routes have risen from zero to $50, while long-haul routes have seen steeper increases of $130 for North America and Australia, and $105 for Europe. "The fuel surcharges on international routes do not compensate for the exponential increase in jet fuel prices for international flights. Air India continues to absorb a significant portion of this increased cost," the airline said in a press statement.

Airlines, Air India in particular, have been grappling with multiple challenges since tensions escalated in West Asia on February 28. Mr. Wilson had earlier flagged the possibility of flight cuts, warning that rising costs could dampen demand.

Meanwhile, Air India, announcing the resignation of its CEO, said Mr. Wilson had informed Air India Chairman N. Chandrasekaran of his intention to step down in 2026 as early as 2024, and will continue in the role until his successor is appointed and assumes charge.

SEBI extends deadline for IPO clearances

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of Indian (SEBI) has extended the validity of IPO approvals till September 30.

The extension comes "as companies faced difficulties in mobilizing resources and accessing the capital market in the backdrop of ongoing geopolitical tensions," the markets regulator said in a circular on Tuesday.

"Considering the representation of the industry body, the prevailing uncertain market conditions due to ongoing geopolitical tensions and subdued investor participation, SEBI has decided to grant one-time relaxation to extend validity of the SEBI observations letters, expiring between April 1, 2026-September 30, 2026 till September 30, 2026," the regulator said.

EV sales surge 25% to 24.52 lakh units

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Total electric vehicle (EVs) retail sales in FY26 across two and three-wheelers, passenger vehicles (PVs) and commercial vehicles (CVs) rose 24.6% year-on-year to 24.52 lakh units – with every category delivering strong double-digit growth, show data released by the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA) on Tuesday.

Electric PV retail sales surged 83.63% to 1,99,923 units while e-CV sales more than doubled to 19,454 units.

In PVs, market leader Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. clocked retail sales of 78,811 units, up 36% while JSW MG Motor Ltd. became the second-largest player in the segment by retailing 53,089 units, up 74% while Mahindra & Mahindra retailed 42,721 units, up 407%.

Hyundai Motor India and BYD India retailed 5,885 and 5,361 units growing 138% and 54% respectively.

KIA India and BMW India registered 794% and 124% YoY growth respectively by retailing 3,738 and 3,537 units during the year.

While Vinfast at 2,390 units and Maruti Suzuki at 1,426 units opened account during the year, car makers which reported sales contraction included Mercedes-Benz India, down 10%, Stellantis Automobiles down 71% and Volvo down 5%.

Tesla opens account

Tesla debuted during the year by registering retail sales of 342 units. Other players put together sold 628 units growing 77%.

In the e-CV segment, Tata Motors remained market leader by retailing 6,023 units, up 40%.

Zero emission e-buses at the Miyapur Bus Depot in Hyderabad. FILE PHOTO

Electric two-wheeler sales crossed 14 lakh, units higher by 21.81%.

Top three players

In the e-two-wheeler segment, the top three players were TVS Motor, up 44%, Bajaj Auto up 25% and Ather Energy up 82%. However, Ola Electric sales shrunk by more than 52%.

Electric three-wheelers at 8.30 lakh units, grew 18.87% cementing a dominant 60.9% segment share. Six in 10 three-wheelers sold during the financial year were electric vehicles.

Mahindra group remained the market leader in this segment by recording a growth of 46%. While Bajaj grew 76%, TVS fell 18% YoY. "FY26 has been a watershed year for India's electric mobility story," said C. S. Vigneshwar, President, FADA.

"This is not just an automobile industry achievement – it is a testament to India's ability to lead a mass-market energy transition, from the last-mile auto-rickshaw to the family car. This shows the structural momentum behind India's EV journey remains firmly intact," he said.

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No.: NIT/2026-27/267-75 **अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 004/2026-27** Date: 06.04.2026
निम्नलिखित परियोजनाओं पर पथकर वसूली हेतु ई-टेन्डरिंग प्रक्रिया से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :—

कार्य का विवरण	कार्य की कुल अनुमानित लागत (रु.)
Selection of Bidder for Collection of User Fee on the basis of competitive bidding through e-procurement basis for the following:-	
On Dudu-Malpura-Chhan Road (SH-37A) and Todaraisingh-Baghera-Kekri Road (SH-116)'' for a period of 01 year. UBN: RRC2627SLOB00009	815.045 Lakh

निविदा से सम्बन्धित प्रपत्र में निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि, डाउनलोड करने व खोलने की तारीख सहित सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं संशोधन वेबसाईट: http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in तथा http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in/rsrdc पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड करवाना आवश्यक है। **महाप्रबंधक**

Government of Karnataka
Department of School Education
Office of The Commissioner, New Public Offices,
Nrupatunga Road, Bengaluru-560001, Phone: 080-22213129

No:DPI/2026-27/IND0661 **Date:06.04.2026**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement System)

A short-term tender (DPI / 2026-27/IND 0661) has been invited by the Commissioner, Department of School Education, Bengaluru, for the supply of shoes and socks to government primary and high school students for the academic year 2026–27.
The tender is invited through the Government of Karnataka's e-portal platform:**https://kppp.karnataka. gov.in**
Interested bidders can upload their applications on the portal **until 5:00 PM on 27-04-2026.**
Detailed tender documents can be downloaded from the website mentioned above, and applications must be submitted through the same e-portal.

Sd/-
The Director (Minority),
Office of the Commissioner,
Department of School Education

DIPR/CP/JA/76/2026-27

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER (NIT) (Through KPP portal)

BESCOM Invites a tender for the work of "Conversion of existing LT Overhead line into LT Aerial Bunched (AB) cable at various hazardous locations in Chintamani town, Chintamani Urban subdivision of Chintamani division, Kolar circle, BRAZ, BESCOM under System Strengthening works on percentage basis quoting".

Tender Enquiry No: BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT 1046. (1)Availability of Bid documents: **09-04-2026** onwards. (2) Last date for bid submission: **11-05-2026 @ 15:00** Hrs. (3) Opening of Technical Bids: **12-05-2026 @ 15:30** Hrs. (4) Pre-Bid meeting: **22-04-2026 @ 11:00** Hrs. **Venue :** Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, BELAKU BHAVANA, Corporate office, BESCOM, K. R. Circle, Bangalore-560 001.

The bid documents can be downloaded and necessary assistance can be obtained through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) from the website. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

KPP Portal Help Desk: Phone No: **+91 9240214000 / +91 9240214001 / +91-8046010000 / +91-8068948777**
E-mail: **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

Aspiring bidders needs to be registered on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP). Bidders can take the assistance from the KPP during office working hours.

For electricity related complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Electy)
Projects, BESCOM.

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
EXAMINATION SECTION

ADMISSION NOTICE NO. 41/2026

F.No.AIIMS/7-10/Exam.Sec/(B.Sc-M.Sc-2026)/2026 **24-03-2026**

Admission Notice for B.Sc. (Hons.) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic)/B.Sc. Allied & Health care courses and M.Sc. Nursing/M.Sc. courses/M.Biotechnology for session August-2026 at AIIMS New Delhi & other AIIMS

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi invites Online applications for Entrance Examinations leading to admission for subject cited above courses in below mentioned schedule.

SCHEDULE FOR UNDER-GRADUATE COURSES	
Commencement of Online Registration for submission of application for B.Sc. (Hons.) Nursing/B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic) B.Sc. Allied & Health Care Courses August-2026 session	Start Date: 25-03-2026 Closing Date: 24-04-2026 (05.00 PM)
Date of B.Sc. (Hons.) Nursing Examination	27th June, 2026 (Saturday)
Date of B.Sc. Allied & Health Care Courses Examination	04th July, 2026 (Saturday)
Date of B.Sc. Nursing (Post-Basic) Examination	30th May, 2026 (Saturday)
SCHEDULE FOR POST-GRADUATE COURSES	
Commencement of Online Registration for submission of application for M.Sc. Nursing/M.Sc. courses/M. Biotechnology August-2026 session	Start Date: 25-03-2026 Closing Date: 24-04-2026 (05.00 PM)
Date of M.Sc. Nursing Examination	20th June, 2026 (Saturday)
Date of M.Sc. Courses/M. Biotechnology Examination	13th June, 2026 (Saturday)

All applicants are required to visit the website **www.aiimsexams.ac.in** regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/ Addendum/Updates will only be uploaded on the website.

CBC 17112/12/0003/2627 **ASSISTANT CONTROLLER (EXAMS.)**

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited
(CIN: U85310UP2018SGC102425) (A Government of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
Address: SUDA Bhawan, 7/23, Sector-7, Gomati Nagar Extension, Lucknow

Advertisement No:- UPMSCL/04/HR/2026-27/28 **Dated: 06/04/2026**

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited invites application for the following position on Deputation/ Contractual:

Sr. No.	Designation	Maximum Age Limit (In year)	Vacancy	Category	Mode of Recruitment	Honoraria in INR (Monthly)	Essential Qualification	Desirable Qualification	Post Qualification experience
1	Bio Medical Engineer (Quality Control	45	01	UR	Deputation/ Contractual	(47,600-50,000) Pay Matrix -8 (in case of Deputation)	Applicant must have full time Bio Medical Engineer Degree (B.E./B.Tech) from recognized Indian University	Certificate/ Diploma in Quality Control/ Management	Applicant must have minimum 3 year's work experience in the field of Bio Medical Engineering Quality
2	Account Officer	45	01	UR	Deputation/ Contractual	(47,600-50,000) Pay Matrix -8 (in case of Deputation)	Applicant must be CA (inter)/ ICWA(Inter) or M.Com	MBA (Finance)	Applicant must have minimum 3 year's work experience in Finance & Accounting
3	Pharmacist (Quality Control)	45	01	UR	Deputation/ Contractual	(47,600-50,000) Pay Matrix -8 (in case of Deputation)	Applicant must have B.Pharma degree or graduate in Science (Chemistry/Bio-Chemistry) discipline from a recognized University/institution		Applicant must have minimum 02 year's of experience in the field of Drug Quality Control

* Interested Candidates must send their application form in the prescribed format along with self attested relevant document by speed post/registered AD from Indian Postal Department by mentioning on the envelop " Application for the (Post Name)" to I/C GM (AHL), SUDA Bhawan 7/23 sector -7 Gomti nagar extension, Lucknow PIN:226010. Applications sent by any other mode shall not be entertained. Submission of Application Starts from April 06, 2026. * The Last Date of Submission of Application is May 05, 2026 at 06:00 PM.* Regular government (Department/Corporations/Institutions) employees with suitable experience on seniority (matrix level) are encouraged to apply on deputation. * Vacancies shall be subject to the State reservation policy of Uttar Pradesh. * Age relaxation shall be provided as per the State reservation policy. Candidate applying on Deputation shall be in accordance with Govt. of UP Service Norms. * Please note that last date of application form shall be taken as a reference date for computing age, qualification, experience etc. Application not received on prescribed format will be rejected. Application format may be download from the website:- www.upmsc.in

For vacancy notification and other related detailed information please visit www.upmsc.in

Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

CHANGE OF NAME

We, Praveen Kumar R S/o S Rajkumar and Rashmi Surya W/o Praveen Kumar R R/at No.363, 12th Cross, AGB Layout, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Chikkabanavara Post, Bengaluru - 560090 do hereby solemnly state that, we had obtained our Daughter's Birth Certificate (803162/B/B/2026/008614) in the name of **HITHAANYA PRAVEEN.** We further state that We have changed her name to **SHRESHTA PRAVEEN,** and will be using her new name for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 24.03.2026 sworn to Notary.

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER -I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, KARNATAKA (DRT-1)
4th Floor, Telephone House Builiding, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560001

CORRIGENDUM

KARNATAKA GRAMIN BANK V/S. SRI SHASHI KUMAR K.
RC 68/2025 in OA No.2096/2020

Reference to the Demand Notice advertisement published in The Hindu dated 04.02.2026 pertaining to Defendant Sri Shashikumar K read the amount Rs.21,89,409/- in words as **(Rupees Twenty One Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Four Hundred And Nine Only)**
Other contents of the Notice remains same. Sd/- Recovery Officer

IN THE COURT OF THE II ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT, BENGALURU
O.S. No. 887/2014

BETWEEN:
Mr. Suresh Bhatia, S/o Sri. M. M. Bhatia, Aged about 61 years, R/at No. 4406-07-08, High Point IV, 45, Palace Road, Bangalore- 560 001
...PLAINTIFF
AND:
Mr. K. M. Ganesh S/o Muninagaiah, Aged about 44 years, R/at No. 140, Opp. To Anjaneyaswamy Temple, New Police Station Road, K.R. Pura, Bangalore- 560 036 **...DEFENDANT**

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT No. 9 to 12

9. Master Dhanush, S/o late Muniyappa, Aged about 18 years Since No. 9 is a Minor, Represented by his Natural Guardian, And mother Smt. Sridevi
10. Smt. Lalitha, D/o Sri Krishnappa, Aged about 48 years
11. Smt. Pramila, D/o. Krishnappa, Aged about 45 years
12. Smt. Rathnamma, D/o. Krishnappa, Aged about 43 years
All residing at Kumbena Agrahara Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk.

WHEREAS, the above-named Plaintiff has instituted a suit against you and others bearing O.S. No. 887/2014 seeking inter alia to execute the absolute Sale Deed and transfer the suit schedule property morefully described in the Plaint in favour of the Plaintiff. Hence, you are hereby directed to appear in person or through a pleader **on 30.04.2026 at 11:00 A.M.** before this Hon'ble Court to answer the said suit. Take notice that in default of your appearance, the above suit will be heard and determined ex-parte.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of land bearing **Sy. No. 56** measuring **1 acre and 37 guntas,** situated at **Kumbena Agrahara, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District,** which is bounded on the:
East by: Road; West by: Property belonging to Narayana Reddy; North by: Road; South by: Property belonging to B. K. Muniyappa.
Given under my hand the seal of the Court this **6th day of April, 2026.**

BY ORDER OF THE COURT
CHIEF MINISTERIAL OFFICER
Senior Civil Judge Court
Bengaluru Rural Dist.Bengaluru
Advocate for the Plaintiff:
Pragati Law Chambers
#5A, Bharat Apartments
44/1 Fairfield layout, Race-Course Road
Bangalore – 560 001.

JERUSALEM

Completed forward deployment in south Lebanon, says Israel military

AFP

The Israeli military said on Tuesday it had completed the deployment of ground troops along a "defence line" in southern Lebanon, where it is fighting Iran-backed Hezbollah. A Lebanese military source said the Israeli army had advanced to a depth of between five and nine km inside Lebanese territory. AFP

KYIV

Russian air strikes on Ukraine's southeast kill seven, hit city bus

REUTERS

Russian attacks on two cities in Ukraine's southeast on Tuesday killed seven persons and injured at least 16, officials said, with Kyiv accusing Moscow of escalating strikes. A small FPV Russian drone smashed into a bus in Nikopol's city centre, governor of the eastern Dnipropetrovsk region, said on the Telegram app. REUTERS

DHAKA

Hasina-era Parliament Speaker Shirin arrested in Bangladesh

AFP

The Bangladeshi police arrested the former Parliament Speaker on Tuesday on attempted murder charges, marking the first detention of a prominent figure from Sheikh Hasina's toppled government under the newly elected one. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, the South Asian nation's first female Speaker, also served as a Minister. AFP

UNITED NATIONS

Russia, China veto UN resolution on reopening Strait of Hormuz

REUTERS

Russia and China vetoed a UN Security Council resolution on Tuesday on reopening the Strait of Hormuz, a text already diluted to remove Gulf states' desired green light to use force to protect the key shipping lane. The draft resolution prepared by Bahrain received 11 votes in favour, two against and two abstentions. AFP

Iranians form human chains at power plants after Trump threat

State media claims 'more than 14 million people registered' to join after a campaign online and through SMS texts; people reportedly stand around key energy sites, bridges in Bushehr, Tabriz, Mashhad, Ahvaz; hashtag *janfada* trending in Iran

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iranians formed human chains to protect power plants on Tuesday after U.S. President Donald Trump's threats to strike energy infrastructure, according to images published by state media, as top officials said they were also prepared to sacrifice their lives.

After a campaign online and through SMS texts to sign up for the human chains nationwide, officials claimed that more than 14 million people had joined.

It was not immediately possible to verify that figure or how many people were taking part, although initial images showed dozens of people outside the main power station in the northern city of Tabriz, as well as at a plant in the northeastern city of Mashhad. With U.S.-Israeli strikes also targeting bridges, people gathered on the main span over a river in the western city of Ahvaz, *Mehr* reported.

Broken dreams: Iranians rally during a memorial for those killed in Minab school strike, in Tehran on Tuesday. AFP

While the more than five-week war between the Islamic republic, and the United States and Israel has seen a whole echelon of the Iranian leadership killed, strikes on energy plants would mark a major escalation.

Iran Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, seen by some as the country's de-facto number one after the killing of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei at the start of the war, published a screenshot of what was purportedly the registration system for the human chains.

Saying he had registered his own name, he added: "Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf is ready to sacrifice his life for Iran."

The Persian word for self-sacrifice – *janfada* – became a trending hashtag on social media.

"More than 14 million proud Iranians have so far registered to sacrifice their lives to defend Iran. I too have been, am, and will remain ready to give my life for Iran," President Masoud Pezehskian wrote on X on Tuesday.

Mr. Trump earlier warned "a whole civilisation will die" in Iran if the country did not heed his midnight deadline to open the Strait of Hormuz.

zens involved at each location.

The state-run *IRNA* news agency showed people forming a human chain "to support power plants" in the southern city of Bushehr, which is home to Iran's nuclear power plant.

State television and the *Mehr* news agency showed dozens of people outside the main power station in the northern city of Tabriz, as well as at a plant in the northeastern city of Mash-

Gun battle near Istanbul's Israeli consulate; one dead

Reuters
ISTANBUL

One attacker was killed and two others were wounded in an extended gun battle with police outside the building housing the Israeli consulate in Istanbul on Tuesday, according to authorities.

Police officers pulled out guns and took cover as shots rang out for at least 10 minutes near a permanent security checkpoint. One person was seen covered in blood amid the glass towers in the heart of the city's main financial district.

Footage obtained by *Reuters* showed an apparent attacker, in a dark top and carrying a backpack, moving among parked white police and security buses and firing, with an automatic rifle and a handgun.

Police officials gather outside the Israeli Consulate in Istanbul following a shootout between gunmen and police on Tuesday. AFP

Two bodies lay on nearby streets and parking areas, near grassy areas.

The three attackers had links to an organisation that "exploits religion", Interior Minister Mustafa Ciftci said, adding that two of them were brothers.

Two police officers were lightly wounded in the attack, Istanbul Governor Davut Gul told pressperson at the scene. He said there had been no Israeli diplomatic staff at the consulate for two and a half years, since the Hamas-Israel war began in 2023, leading to a deep chill in Turkish-Israeli diplomatic ties.

The incident occurred next to a major motorway just after midday, immediately outside the tower where the Israeli consulate is located.

Suffocating times

Strong dissent: Autorickshaw drivers hold Pakistan's national flag and shout slogans during an anti-government protest in Lahore on Tuesday against rising fuel prices triggered by the West Asia war. AFP

Sri Lanka rolls out 'relief package' to help citizens amid West Asian crisis

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Tuesday rolled out relief measures to help citizens cope with the impact of war in West Asia.

Addressing Parliament, President Anura Kumara Dissanayake announced fuel and fertilizer subsidies, and a temporary increase in the government's targeted cash transfer programme for the poor. Further, the government will bear the cost of electricity for consumers using less than 90 units over the next three months. "The total relief package is valued at 100 billion rupees (roughly $317 million) over three months," he said, adding that the "relief package" was being funded through the existing Budget.

Anura Kumara Dissanayake

Mr. Dissanayake's announcement comes a week before Sri Lankans mark the Sinhala and Tamil New Year, one of the biggest festivals celebrated on the island. It also coincides with the government's ongoing talks with a visiting delegation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). A staff-level agreement for the next tranche of the Fund's $2.9 billion-assistance to Sri Lanka – extended following the 2022 economic crash – is expected this week. Meanwhile, ordinary citizens, already grappling with IMF-linked austerity, are now forced to contend with sharp hikes in fuel, LPG, and electricity prices.

Amid the persisting uncertainty in fuel supplies and global oil prices, Sri Lanka is in talks with Russia and China to augment supplies in the coming months. On March 28, India delivered 38,000 metric tonnes (MT) of petroleum to Sri Lanka, including 20,000 MT of diesel and 18,000 MT of petrol, following a telephone call between President Dissanayake and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A top official at the state-run Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) said the country's current fuel stocks will ensure smooth supply until end of May. "We have been talking to Russia, and we are now in discussion with China, to augment supply going forward," Mayura Neththikumarage, Managing Director of CPC, told *The Hindu*. "The QR-code system introduced last month to manage supplies has helped us," he added. Sources at Lanka IOC, the second largest supplier on the island, said it had stocks to last until mid-May.

Kuwait issues advisory, asks residents to stay in

Agence France-Presse
KUWAIT CITY/MANAMA

Kuwait asked residents to avoid going outside from midnight until Wednesday morning, hours ahead of a U.S. deadline for Iran to agree to a deal or suffer major strikes on civilian infrastructure.

"The Interior Ministry tells citizens and residents that it is crucial to stay at home and avoid going out, unless absolutely urgent," a statement said.

Bahrain's main port, Khalifa Bin Salman, will suspend operations starting early Wednesday.

A Lebanese seafarer caught in a double-whammy amid war

M. Kalyanaraman

For Akkad Soubhi, the West Asia war has been what the Americans would call a double-whammy. Chief engineer on a car carrier ship anchored off Khor Fakkan, Mr. Akkad has been caught in the middle of the West Asia war. His family in Lebanon too wakes up to missiles and bombs every day. Fearful of a civil war breaking out, they are planning to move to Turkiye or Syria.

Mr. Akkad has been stuck in his ship carrying more than 1,000 cars for over a month – off Fujairah first, now off Khor Fakkan. His ship was about to enter the Strait of Hormuz on March 2 when they got the message that Jebel Ali port, their destination, had been attacked. And they decided to stay near Fujairah.

Unlike other seafarers, Mr. Akkad's home country is also in distress. Though he says that he lives in Sunni-dominated north Lebanon that often escapes Israeli attacks, he fears a civil war may break out once again in the country.

He cites the recent killing of a Christian leader by drones looking for a Hezbollah operative in central Lebanon.

"Christians are now angry at Shias and may turn against them and refugees," he says, recalling the devastating civil war of the 1980s.

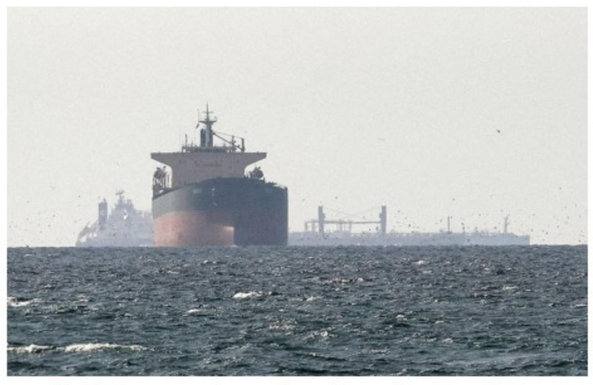
"Every 10 years, there is a big conflict. We are used to that. But this time may be different. It's all push-button now and war is easy to do."

He says the second officer on his ship is from South Lebanon. "His house was completely destroyed recently. I tried to console him that at least his family was safe," he says.

Seeking sanctuary

Mr. Akkad says his mother will be moving to Turkiye soon. And his wife and daughter will move there after a month once his daughter's university education is over.

"We are considering moving to Syria. Though there are low-intensity troubles there, the country is relatively more peaceful than Lebanon," he adds.



Stuck in limbo: Cargo ships in the Gulf, near the Strait of Hormuz, as seen from northern Ras al-Khaimah. REUTERS

In the Gulf of Oman, too, it has been a daily dance of death. Mr. Akkad talks of missiles hitting another ship just one nautical mile away and destroying it. He saw the Fujairah port attacked and one large fuel tank hit. "We saw the blaze for nearly a week." Hundreds of merchant ships are stuck in the Gulf unable to move up or down the Strait of Hormuz. Nearly 30,000 seafarers are estimated to be onboard these ships. Long anchorages often mean ship crew doing major maintenance work on equipment. But this is war. The ship needs to be always ready to move, which means all the equipment are ready for operation.

On March 21, for instance, the owners asked them to move to Khor Fakkan port for discharging. After 100 cars rolled out, suddenly, the harbour master came to them and said there was information that the port was going to be attacked and ships had to leave. Since then, Mr. Akkad's ship has been anchored off Khor Fakkan port.

Typically, ships make fresh water on board using water used to cool the engines. When a ship is not sailing, there is no source of hot water from the engine and no water can be made. But ships are being supplied water and food supplies by owners.

"We have told our crew that if they want to leave, repatriation can be arranged. But we are all staying," he says proudly, pointing out that his ship has 19 Indians out of a total of 24 crew. They all have Internet and are talking to their families. "We even had a near miss when a missile that seemed to coming at us was intercepted."

Humour often helps alleviate the tension on board. A form of gallows humour, almost. "We have learned to shout hello to the drones. They fly so close that they can hear us if they have ears," he says.

FULL BACKING

Buttler close to playing a great innings: GT's Sai Sudharsan

FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

B. Sai Sudharsan brushed aside concerns about the form of Gujarat Titans teammate Jos Buttler. "The way we see it is not what you say," was Sai Sudharsan's response to a query on Buttler. "It's a learning experience whenever you don't score runs. He's closer than anybody to getting a great innings".

GOOD TO GO

We have told Nabi to be ready, he can play any time: Munaf

AP

Delhi Capitals shelled out ₹8.4 crore for Auqib Nabi but is yet to give the J & K pacer a go. "Nabi is a very good lad. His work ethics are very good. He is desperate to learn and develop different things. We have told Nabi to be ready to play any time. He can be used as an Impact Player as well," DC bowling coach Munaf Patel said.

SOLID SUPPORT

Finch backs 'tentative' Green to bat at the top of the order for KKR

AP

Former Australian cricketer Aaron Finch backed struggling all-rounder Cameron Green to continue batting up the order for KKR even if he is looking "tentative" and said"Remember when he was at the top of the order for MI...He was imposing at the crease. Now he looks tentative. Don't push him down the order."

STRONG OUTFIT

Punjab Kings is one of the teams to beat, says Aakash Chopra

K.R. DEEPAK

Former India cricketer Aakash Chopra hailed Punjab Kings as "one of the teams to beat" in IPL 2026. He said PBKS had a strong batting unit, relying on young Indian players, and added that the team is being managed well by the captain Shreyas Iyer and coach Ricky Ponting. "Their bowling isn't extraordinary, but it's effective".

Box-office show: Jaiswal put Royals in the driver's seat with a swashbuckling knock. RITU RAJ KONWAR

After Jaiswal storm, RR bowlers take over

The opener and his partner Suryavanshi launch an assault on MI; Burger, Sandeep and Bishnoi derail the chase in 11-over shootout; Royals go top

IPL-19

Pranay Rajiv
GUWAHATI

In the first half of Tuesday evening, the Barsapara Stadium here witnessed rain, at varying intensities.

The latter part saw a different sort of downpour – a hailstorm of boundaries from the blades of Rajasthan Royals openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and Vaibhav Suryavanshi.

The left-handed duo's batting masterclass swept away a dazed Mumbai Indians side as Royals sailed to a 27-run win in a truncated IPL 2026 match. A third successive triumph lifted the Rajasthan outfit to the top of the standings, while it was a second defeat on the trot for MI.

Earlier, an intense afternoon thunderstorm, followed by on-and-off drizzle, had threatened to nip the game in the bud. But the rain relented around 9 p.m., allowing the ground staff to salvage a 11-over shootout, which proved to be as enthralling as a full-fledged game.

After MI skipper Hardik Pandya opted to field, Jaiswal lit the fuse for the batting carnival with a stunning first-over takedown of Deepak Chahar that yielded 22 runs

At the other end, Suryavanshi showed no signs of nerves in his much-hyped face-off with Jasprit Bumrah. In fact, the 15-year-old welcomed the MI pacer with a six – a sure-footed whip over long on. He backed it up by getting inside the line and pulling Bumrah over square-leg for another maximum.

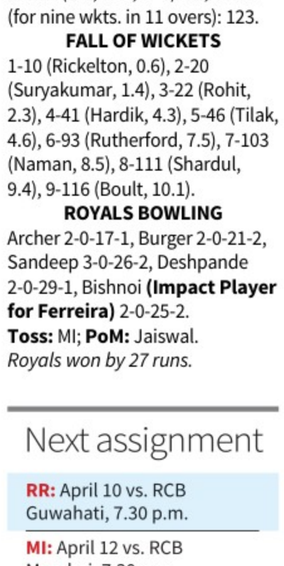
Jaiswal and Suryavanshi were on a single-minded offensive charge, taking on all MI bowlers alike and depositing them to all parts of the ground.

When Shardul Thakur removed Suryavanshi, caught at deep extra cover, the Royals openers had already racked up 80 from just five overs.

Jaiswal, though, continued with his flamboyant shot-making ways to bring up his second consecutive half-century as Royals rocketed to 150 for three.

The run-rate pressure didn't take too long to impair MI's response – the visiting side lost a wicket each in its first three overs.

Leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi's two-wicket burst in the fifth over effectively shut the door for Hardik's men as the contest soon wound up in Royals' favour.



Bishnoi. RITU RAJ KONWAR

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS
Yashasvi Jaiswal (not out) 77 *(32b, 10x4, 4x6)*, Vaibhav Suryavanshi c Tilak b Shardul 39 *(14b, 1x4, 5x6)*, Dhruv Jurel lbw b Ghazanfar 2 *(3b)*, Riyan Parag c Tilak b Ghazanfar 20 *(10b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Shimron Hetmyer (not out) 6 *(7b)*; Extras (w-6): 6; Total (for three wkts. in 11 overs): 150.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-80 (Suryavanshi, 4.6 overs), 2-84 (Jurel, 5.4), 3-121 (Parag, 8.5).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Deepak Chahar 1-0-22-0, Bumrah 3-0-32-0, Boult 1-0-22-0, Hardik 2-0-17-0, Shardul 2-0-36-1, Ghazanfar 2-0-21-2.

MUMBAI INDIANS
Ryan Rickelton c Jurel b Archer 8 *(4b, 1x6)*, Rohit Sharma lbw b Sandeep 5 *(6b)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Archer b Burger 6 *(3b, 1x6)*, Tilak Varma c Hetmyer b Bishnoi 14 *(10b, 2x4)*, Hardik Pandya c Jaiswal b Bishnoi 9 *(6b, 2x4)*, Naman Dhir c Bishnoi b Burger 25 *(13b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Sherfane Rutherford **(Impact Player for Ghazanfar)** c Sandeep b Deshpande 25 *(8b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Shardul Thakur c Jurel b Sandeep 8 *(7b, 1x4)*, Deepak Chahar (not out) 6 *(5b, 1x4)*, Trent Boult run out 1 *(2b)*, Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 5 *(2b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-1, lb-4, w-6): 11; Total (for nine wkts. in 11 overs): 123.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-10 (Rickelton, 0.6), 2-20 (Suryakumar, 1.4), 3-22 (Rohit, 2.3), 4-41 (Hardik, 4.3), 5-46 (Tilak, 4.6), 6-93 (Rutherford, 7.5), 7-103 (Naman, 8.5), 8-111 (Shardul, 9.4), 9-116 (Boult, 10.1).

ROYALS BOWLING
Archer 2-0-17-1, Burger 2-0-21-2, Sandeep 3-0-26-2, Deshpande 2-0-29-1, Bishnoi **(Impact Player for Ferreira)** 2-0-25-2.
Toss: MI; **PoM:** Jaiswal.
Royals won by 27 runs.

Next assignment

RR: April 10 vs. RCB Guwahati, 7.30 p.m.

MI: April 12 vs. RCB Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Rajasthan Royals	3	3	0	0	6	2.403
Punjab Kings	3	2	0	1	5	0.637
Royal Challengers	2	2	0	0	4	2.501
Delhi Capitals	2	2	0	0	4	1.170
Sunrisers Hyderabad	3	1	2	0	2	0.275
Lucknow Super Giants	2	1	1	0	2	-0.542
Mumbai Indians	3	1	2	0	2	-0.715
Kolkata Knight Riders	3	0	2	1	1	-1.964
Gujarat Titans	2	0	2	0	0	-0.424
Chennai Super Kings	3	0	3	0	0	-2.517

Imperative for GT to get going when it faces DC

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Slight discomfort could swiftly turn into severe distress for Gujarat Titans in the 19th edition of the Indian Premier League.

To avert that from happening, it is imperative for Titans to get off the mark against Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Wednesday. Having lost its first two games, GT cannot afford to be pegged back by a third successive defeat.

Return of Gill

It will comfort GT that regular skipper and star opener Shubman Gill trained on Tuesday. The 26-year-old had missed the previous encounter against Rajasthan Royals in Ahmedabad due to a muscle spasm. Despite his absence, the 2022 champion came ever so close to overhauling RR's total of 210 for six, amassing 204 for eight to lose by just six runs.

"Gill is superb. He is completely fine. He will be playing," Titans opener B. Sai Sudharsan said during the pre-match press conference.

GT's bowlers will need to lift their game in the national capital. Amidst the established names in the attack, it was 23-year-old Ashok Sharma who left an impression in the first two games. He has pure speed in his locker, as evident from a 154kmph thunderbolt against Royals.

DC, meanwhile, must be brimming with confidence after two wins out of two. The uncapped Sameer Rizvi has made his opportunities count at No. 4, retaining his sangfroid in two potentially tricky chases to get the job done for the franchise. The caveat in Capitals' case is that they began last season with similar ebullience, only to fizzle out in the second half of the competition.

There is light rain forecast on Wednesday. But DC won't want the weather to play spoilsport given its red-hot form. Neither will GT, for it needs the two points to get going.

Slow start: Nitish Rana hasn't fired in the DC colours yet. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Today's match

DELHI CAPITALS vs GUJARAT TITANS

Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 7
DC 3 | GT 4

PREVIOUS MEETING
GT won by 10 wickets, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Software update: Sai Sudharsan says it is vital to be versatile. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Sai Sudharsan wants to keep evolving as a T20 batter

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

In B. Sai Sudharsan's case, it is usually his exquisite timing and effortless ability to pierce gaps that aid his prolific run-making.

He isn't one to bludgeon the cricket ball, and yet he managed to achieve a strike-rate of 156.17 in the IPL last year whilst compiling a chart-topping 759 runs for Gujarat Titans.

Impressive as that is, batters around the world are constantly enhancing their power game and pushing the envelope. Does that influence Sai Sudharsan to tweak his own style?

"The sport is definitely evolving, and T20 batting is getting greater and greater every season or even every five to six months. It's very important to learn from it and be versatile enough to have that in my kitty and equip myself with that. So, definitely there are improvements to be made, and of course I'm looking at it," the 24-year-old southpaw said on Tuesday.

Probed on a specific area that he worked on in the tune-up to this season, Sai Sudharsan pointed to preparing for steep run chases.

"The biggest awareness I had was if we are going to chase something really big, how I'm going to approach the innings. So it was just about awareness and mindset," he revealed.

Though Sai Sudharsan forms a robust top-three for GT alongside Shubman Gill and Jos Buttler, there is a sense that the middle-order is fragile. "We believe in our middle-order. This is the team in which we played last year and we qualified," the southpaw asserted.

Not having Dhoni doesn't make CSK less of a good team: Klaasen

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

A faltering bowling unit, inconsistency with the bat and underwhelming returns from high-value players have condemned Chennai Super Kings to a dismal start in IPL 2026 featuring three consecutive defeats. Significant squad changes – some mandated by injuries, some by form – have disrupted team balance with the side struggling to come up with a winning combination.

That said, one element that cannot cop blame for CSK's struggles is the absence of M.S. Dhoni, at least according to Heinrich Klaasen. The Sunrisers Hyderabad star believes the five-time champion possesses enough firepower to compensate for the absence of its talismanic former skipper.

"They've obviously got an incredible IPL record and have always been a strong side. Not having Dhoni doesn't make them less of a good team. The players they have currently are unbelievable as well," Klaasen said in a media interaction facilitated by *Star Sports*.

"They're going to get (Dewald) Brevis back, which will strengthen their middle-order. The two openers haven't really scored anything yet, so they're due for runs."

The 34-year-old added that Dhoni's influence extends well beyond his on-field presence.

"Dhoni not being there doesn't really make a difference, because he's still in the dugout sharing his experience with the guys. Normally, over the last few seasons, he probably bats the last 10 balls only anyway. So it's the other guys in the team that you have to worry about more."

That said, Klaasen acknowledged one area where Dhoni's absence is noticeable.

"The crowd will be a little bit quieter. Normally, when he walks onto the ground, you can't hear anything around you. Hopefully their form continues to struggle a little bit against us so we can really put them under pressure."

Klaasen is particularly happy about not having to worry about one man at Chepauk.

"Chennai is probably not the easiest place to play cricket, especially if you have someone like (Ravindra) Jadeja (now back at Rajasthan Royals) who can bowl at 100 kilometres an hour and the ball spins and just holds a little bit. Luckily, he's not there this season."

A big miss: Klaasen feels the talismanic Dhoni's influence extends well beyond his on-field presence. R.RAGU

Starc is one of the very best in IPL: Munaf

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals' bowling attack hasn't yet allowed the absence of spearhead Mitchell Starc to be felt. The Australian left-arm pacer has been unable to join the team owing to a shoulder and elbow injury sustained during the home season Down Under.

It hasn't hindered DC from notching up two wins on the trot. In both performances, the bowlers played their part, bundling out Lucknow Super Giants for 141 and then restricting Mumbai Indians to 162 for six.

Still, DC's bowling coach Munaf Patel is under no illusion about his team being able to make do without Starc.

"We have won two matches. So, people may think Starc's absence is not being felt. But whether we win or don't win in the coming games will depend on him. A big bowler is a big bowler. I don't think there is a greater bowler than Starc in the IPL. There's (Jasprit) Bumrah that Starc can be compared with. Starc has a lot of experience. He swings the new ball at 140kmph-plus. I am following his injury timeline regularly and asking every day when he will return. There is no update yet," Munaf told the media on Tuesday.

While Starc is away, South Africa's Lungi Ngidi has been doing a stellar job with his deadly off-cutters.

"Ngidi has a good idea of bowling on different wickets," Munaf observed. "He knows his variations. He is not the sort of bowler who tries to bowl at 150 kmph and gets hit. He stays within his limitations."

Starc. FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Clinching it: Politano fires in Napoli's winner late into the second half. REUTERS

Napoli boosts title defence hopes after edging AC Milan

Substitute Politano scores only goal of the game as it posts fifth straight win; Juventus stays in contention for Europe with win over Genoa

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
MILAN

Napoli is still in the hunt to retain its Serie A title after the champion beat Scudetto rival AC Milan 1-0 on Monday.

Matteo Politano came off the bench and lashed home the only goal of the game with 11 minutes remaining in front of delighted fans in Naples as the host racked up a fifth straight win.

Napoli leapfrogged Milan into second place but still has a battle on its hands to deny Inter a 21st league crown as it sits seven points off the pace with seven matches remaining.

Antonio Conte's team was superior at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona, where Politano's second goal of the season decided a largely stodgy contest not helped by Milan only being able to select star attackers Rafael Leao and Christian Pulisic.

Milan trails Inter by nine points and will in all likelihood have to content itself with a return to the Champions League.

Juventus moved to within a point of Serie A's Champions League places with a 2-0 win over Genoa, as the top four battle heats up.

Taking advantage of fourth-placed Como's goalless draw at Udinese earlier in the day, Juve notched the three points in Turin thanks to Gleison Bremer's fourth-minute header and a 17th-minute strike from the ever-reliable Weston McKennie.

Juve is four points ahead of Atalanta, 3-0 winner at Lecce, ahead of Saturday's clash between the pair in Bergamo, with Como hosting Inter the following day.

The results:

Serie A: Juventus 2 (Bremer 4, McKennie 17) bt Genoa 0; Lecce 0 lost to Atalanta 3 (Scalvini 29, Krstovic 59, Raspadori 73).

Napoli 1 (Politano 79) bt AC Milan 0; Udinese 0 drew with Como 0.

LaLiga: Girona 1 (Navarro 45+1-og) bt Villarreal 0.

Dhruv-Tanisha duo advances to second round

BADMINTON

Agencies
NINGBO

India's leading mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto advanced to the second round, but the duo of Rohan Kapoor and Gadde Ruthvika Shivani crashed out of the Badminton Asia Championships, which got underway on Tuesday.

Kapila and Crasto won 21-14, 11-21, 21-15 over Thailand's Phuwanat Horbanluekit and Benyapa Aimsaard. Rohan Kapoor and Gadde Ruthvika Shivani went down fighting against Malaysia's eighth seeds Goh Soon Huat and Lai Shevon Jemie 13-21, 19-21 in a 34-minute contest at the Ningbo Olympic Centre.

The Indian duo of struggled to find rhythm early on, conceding the first game comfortably, but showed signs of resistance in the second before the experienced Malaysian combination shut the door in straight games.

Hanging tough: Dhruv and Tanisha prevailed in three games. FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh also failed to cross the opening hurdle, losing 16-21, 15-21 to Malaysia's Wong Tien Ci and Lim Chiew Sien.

The Indian pair fought hard but were unable to sustain pressure at crucial junctures against their steady opponents.

The focus will shift to singles on Wednesday with India's top stars set to begin their campaigns.

Lakshya Sen, fresh from a runner-up finish at the All England Championships, will spearhead the men's singles challenge. The country's top-ranked shuttler faces a tricky opening match against Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu.

In the women's singles, double Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu returns to action after a disrupted European leg and will open her campaign against Malaysia's Wong Ling Ching.

Satwik-Chirag out

India's campaign suffered a setback with the withdrawal of doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty due to a shoulder injury.

The results:

Mixed doubles: Dhruv Kapila & Tanisha Crasto bt Phuwanat Horbanluekit & Benyapa Aimsaard (Tha) 21-11, 11-21, 21-15; Wong Tien Ci & Lim Sien (Mas) bt Ashith Surya & Amrutha Pramuthesh 21-16, 21-15.

Goh Huat & Lai Jemie (Mas) bt Rohan Kapoor & Gadde Ruthvika Shivani 21-19, 21-13.

Low-laden Liverpool up against a power-packed PSG

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

When Paris Saint-Germain and Liverpool last met in the Champions League a year ago, the Anfield outfit was marching towards the Premier League title and was described as "an almost perfect team" by the French club's coach Luis Enrique.

Fast forward to this season and a formidable PSG appear the clear favourite as the sides clash again in the Champions League quarterfinals, with the first leg in Paris on Wednesday.

PSG's triumph on penalties against Liverpool in the last 16 last season was pivotal in its run to a first-ever Champions League title.

It had to overturn a 0-1 defeat at home in a first leg it completely dominated before holding its nerve at Anfield, and the two teams have set off on different trajectories since.

Arne Slot's side somewhat ran out of steam after that, albeit having done more than enough to get over the line in the Premier League.

This season has been a huge disappointment, however, and it returns to Paris in an especially downbeat mood after a chastening 0-4 defeat against Manchester City in the FA Cup quarter-finals.

Down and out?

That had Slot saying his team lacked fighting spirit, while captain Virgil van Dijk suggested the side had given up and admitted it would be "very difficult" for Liverpool to lift itself against PSG.

"But we have a responsibility, not only to ourselves but especially to the fans and, if we want to make something out of this season, we have to try and do something special in the next three games," he said, with the Champions League tie taking place either side of an awkward clash with Fulham.

"The matter of fact is now, PSG are waiting for us. It will be so tough again. So we have to be ready mentally as soon as possible," Van Dijk added.

PSG, in contrast, has had a tricky season at times due to injuries but look like it might be returning to its very best form at the right time.

Dembele is fit

Dembele is fully fit and firing, but Khvicha Kvaratskhelia was the inspiration in the last round, when PSG destroyed Chelsea 8-2 on aggregate – Wednesday's game will be its 14th against Premier League opposition since January 2025.

Facile win for Ideal Sports Academy

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Ideal Sports Academy beat Bangalore Friends HC 8-4 in the KSHA B-division hockey league championship here on Tuesday. In another encounter, Garuda HC defeated Ashco HC 4-2.

Shivraj sizzles

Shivaraj scored a century (125) as Young Lions beat CCE by eight wickets in the Tiger Cup U-16 cricket tournament here.

The scores: CCE 179 in 28.4 overs (Soorya Rao 60, Arjun Bhardwaj 4/32) lost to Young Lions 180/2 in 15 overs (Shivaraj 125, H. Deekshith Gowda 46).

SCA 134 in 29.5 overs lost to Gopalan 135/3 in 20.4 overs (W.M. Ayaan 4/22).

Kapil 73/9 in 21.5 overs (N.R. Diganth 46, Vikram 4/20) lost to Kreeda Kshetra 75/1 in 5.3 overs.

Presidency 75 in 19.1 overs (V.K. Atharv 4/10) lost to RRCC 76/2 in 7.4 overs.

Ravi Shastri stand to be unveiled on Thursday

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

The Ravi Shastri Stand, and stadium gates named in honour of Dilip Sardesai, Eknath Solkar and Diana Edulji will be unveiled at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday (April 9), the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) announced on Tuesday.

The honours formally approved by the MCA Apex Council in February 27 recognise their contribution to Mumbai and Indian cricket.

Franchise cricket is evolving, be careful what you wish for

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

The camel of franchise cricket is beginning to feel comfortable in the tent of international cricket but bilateral T20 internationals among Test-playing countries may have become pointless.

Arun Singh Dhumal, chairman of the IPL told *Financial Times* that the new world order could include more franchise T20s and fewer bilaterals.

"Whatever works in the interest of world cricket at large, we will take a decision keeping that in mind," he said magnanimously.

He has asked for a fresh look after 2027 when the current cycle ends. He might merely be anticipating the inevitable.

Franchise cricket will continue to suck relevance out of bilateral T20 series. Dhumal hopes to have 94 matches instead of the current 74 in the IPL and thus a bigger window for the tournament.

Ownership

What is not often considered is the effect of IPL ownership in franchises around the world: in the Caribbean, South Africa, UAE and The Hundred in England. Australia are toying with the idea of selling full or partial stakes in the Big Bash League, and you can be sure the usual suspects will then line up with their cheque books.

Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals own franchises in four continents; all six teams in South Africa's SA20 are owned by Indian franchises. Major League Cricket in the US has four Indian franchises.

Cricket's franchise empires have moved efficiently, and in the near future we could see either consolidation or attempts to break away from cricket's national and international governing bodies.

The possibility that franchise cricket will be run by the owners cannot be ruled out. That is, if they take the formal route. Informally, their influence is growing anyway.

Money matters

The IPL, originator and still the richest league of them all, does not permit active Indian players to take part in other leagues. But for how long? For the amount of money Indian franchises have spent on their teams, they will begin to demand their pound of flesh – return on investment – soon enough.

The most powerful person in world cricket is Jay Shah, chairman of the International Cricket Council. He was president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India. He is the son of India's Home Minister. That's a trifecta difficult to top.

Yet Mukesh Ambani, who owns more franchises than anybody else, might be the one running the game in the near future; economics trumps history and politics in the contemporary world.

Leagues now have restrictions on foreigners in the playing eleven (four in the IPL, three in the BBL and so on). This is a sensible ruling to ensure local participation and keep the supply lines to the national level unclogged. But when the bottom line is calculated in dollars, national interest is not a priority. The control of the global calendar is an obvious battle ground of the near future, as is the question of player burnout.

Lay down the rules

If the ICC does not lay down the rules soon, restricting the number of leagues a player might participate in, or indeed the number of franchises one owner might buy, the clash with franchise cricket (which is technically domestic) might become difficult to handle. Tim David, for instance, has played for five franchises in a single season. Players need choice, but they also need protection.

Fan fatigue needs to be considered too; if the television audiences drop, the billionaires are likely to move on to the next big thing. Year-round T20 cricket with demands for high-profile players and shifting calendars might be a sport too far for even the most hardened fans of the format.

We might have reached an inflexion point. Dhumal might be testing the waters, checking how far franchise cricket can be pushed, or indeed how much the IPL can bear in terms of more teams and more matches.

For a large community of fans, 'cricket' still means Test and first class cricket. These co-exist with franchise cricket, but for that happy state to continue, the ICC has to let the camel know that it has come inside the tent far enough. The BCCI, which presides over the largest sets of fans for either format, has an important role to play. Be careful what you wish for.

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU GROUP

WILDLIFE OF TAMIL NADU

DISCOVER THE NATURAL WONDERS OF THE STATE

Tamil Nadu's diverse landscapes — from coastal wetlands such as Pulicat and Point Calimere to the forests of Western Ghats and coral reefs in Gulf of Mannar — support rich wildlife, from migratory birds to elephants, tigers, hornbills, and endemic species. This coffee table book offers a visual and narrative journey through these spectacular habitats, showcasing their ecological richness, cultural histories, and some of the State's most striking natural scenes.

MUDUMALAI TIGER RESERVE | ANAMALAI TIGER RESERVE | SATHYAMANGALAM TIGER RESERVE
SRIVILLIPUTHUR-MEGAMALAI TIGER RESERVE | KALAKAD-MUNDANTHURAI TIGER RESERVE
GULF OF MANNAR MARINE NATIONAL PARK | PULICAT BIRD SANCTUARY
VEDANTHANGAL BIRD SANCTUARY | POINT CALIMERE | STATE BIRD | STATE BUTTERFLY | STATE FLOWER

THG BOOKS

To avail this limited period offer,
scan QR code or visit publications.thehindugroup.com
For bulk booking and enquiries,
contact us at bookstore@thehindu.co.in or 1800 102 1878

A BG-BGE

INBRIEF

Palak and Mukesh win gold with a World record

India's Palak and Mukesh Nelavalli shattered the World record on way to winning the 10m air pistol mixed team gold at the ISSF rifle and and pistol World Cup at Granada (Spain) on Tuesday. The Indian duo aggregated 487.7 to clinch the top spot, which is also a junior World record. While Palak had 243.0 in the final, Mukesh scored 244.7. China's Qianxun Yao and Kai Hu bagged the silver with 484.8 while Hungary's Veronika Major and Akos Karoly Nagy (414..9) won bronze.

Lalit clinches silver; Sunil claims bronze medal

Indian Greco-Roman wrestlers bagged two medals and confirmed another one at Asian wrestling in Bishkek on Tuesday. Lalit lost 0-9 to Uzbekistan's Ikhtiyor Botirov in the 55kg final to claim silver, while Sunil Kumar defeated another Uzbek, Mukhammadkodir Rasulov, 5-4 in an 87kg bronze medal match to ensure his sixth podium finish in the event. Nitesh entered the 97kg final to assure India of another medal. Nitesh, who beat Kyrgyzstan's Melis Aitbekov 8-0 in quarterfinals and China's Zegang Wang 7-2 in the semifinals, will meet Iran's Abdollah Saravi in the gold medal contest. Aman (77kg) lost to Korea's Yeonghun Noh 14-15 in another duel for bronze.

Ex-Gunner Ramsey announces retirement

Former Wales and Arsenal midfielder Aaron Ramsey, 35, announced his retirement from football on Tuesday. "After a lot of consideration, I have decided to retire from football," he said.

India's hopes hang in balance after rain-affected day one of BJK Cup

Sahaja keeps the host in with a chance to level the tie against Thailand after Vaishnavi crumbles against Anchisa; Indonesia leads NZ; Korea cruises

TENNIS

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Rains and a tenacious fightback from Sahaja Yamalapalli kept India's hopes in balance, trailing 1-0 against Thailand in its opening tie of the Billie Jean King Asia/Oceania Group I when play was called off late on Tuesday night.

The start was delayed by more than three hours due to heavy rains and a persistent drizzle before a returning downpour forced the players off court with Sahaja trailing 3-4 against Patcharin Cheapchandej in the decider.

The India No. 2 and World No. 384 kept the host in with a chance to level the tie after Vaishnavi Adkar faltered under the weight of expectations, unforced errors and an opponent who came out all guns blazing, going down in straight sets to Anchisa Chanta in the opening match.

In control: Anchisa proved too hot for Vaishnavi to handle. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The match went with the serve for the first few games before Patcharin found the break to lead 4-2 in the first set. But a series of double faults and wayward forehands saw the Thai take the first set 6-4. A couple of close calls for both players kept the match in balance but Sahaja used her pace and powerful returns to wrap up the second set 6-1 and take the game into the decider before play was disrupted.

Earlier, India's recently crowned top-ranked singles player Vaishnavi, 73 places above Anchisa at 383, lost 1-6, 3-6 at the DLTA Stadium under lights.

Mistakes galore

The 21-year-old Adkar was guilty of several unforced errors and was more reactive than proactive, the result decided more by her opponent's winners or errors.

Barring a fighting third game where she saved two break points but also wasted five of her own before succumbing to sustained pressure, before pushing a backhand wide to trail 1-0 in 23 minutes. She began the second set on a brighter note, breaking Anchisa in the opening game but lost her service immediately after and handed over the advantage to again trail 1-4.

The results: Thailand leads India 1-0 [Anchisa Chanta bt Vaishnavi Adkar 6-1, 6-3; Patcharin Cheapchandej vs. Sahaja Yamalapalli 6-4, 1-6, 4-3 suspended].
Indonesia leads New Zealand 2-0 [Priska Madelyn Nugroho bt Aishi Das 6-4, 6-1; Janice Tjen bt Monique Barry 6-3, 6-1; Priska & Aldila Sutjiadi vs. Monique & Erin Routliffe 1-1 suspended].
Korea bt Mongolia 3-0 [Dayeon Back bt Khongorzul Aldarkhishig 6-0, 6-0; Sohyun Park bt Jargal Altansarnai 6-0, 6-0; Jeong BoYoung & Lee Eunhye bt Khongorzul Aldarkhishig & Anu-Vjin Gantor 6-0, 6-0].

Inter Kashi stems the rot with a win over Chennaiyin

Two-goal hero: Planas celebrates scoring Kashi's second. R. RAGU

ISL

S. Shrivathsan
CHENNAI

A wounded animal is often considered the most dangerous. Inter Kashi FC proved the adage true in the Indian Super League here on Tuesday, stemming the rot with a 2-1 triumph over Chennaiyin FC at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

Bruised after three consecutive defeats in its debut ISL campaign, Kashi made the trip to Chennai with the sole objective of ending its barren run.

It did so under lights, thanks to 'leader of the pack' Alfred Planas (46th and 54th minute), whose brace pushed the Antonio Lopez Habas-coached side – eight points from seven matches – to eighth on the table.

While Chennaiyin pulled one back through substitute Daniel Chima Chukwu (90+5) minutes before the final whistle, it was not enough to prevent a third loss. CFC is now languishing in 11th spot with five points off six games.

The hero of the night without an iota of doubt was Planas.

Habas' half-time team talk appeared to have worked a treat as the Spanish forward provided the visitor a dream start in the second period.

Barely moments after the kick-off, the 30-year-old pounced on a poor Mohammed Ali Bemammer clearance to find the right corner of the net.

Planas, a fox in the box, then made left-back D. Vignesh's pay for his grave mistake, evading two of his markers before poking the ball home to extend the advantage. The double strike proved enough for Kashi to get back on track.

The result: Chennaiyin FC 1 (Daniel Chima Chukwu 90+5) lost to Inter Kashi FC 2 (Alfred Planas 46, 54).

Divya shocks Muzychuk, moves into joint lead with Vaishali, three others

CANDIDATES CHESS

Sports Bureau

Divya Deshmukh showed great fighting spirit to pull off a remarkable win after being in considerable trouble against overnight leader Anna Muzychuk in the Women's Candidates chess tournament.

The victory also took her to the joint lead position at the end of the eighth round at Pegeia, Cyprus, on Tuesday.

The right moves: Divya held off a stiff challenge from Muzychuk to earn a full point. FIDE

The only draw

Fellow-Indian R. Vaishali is also among the joint leaders, after she drew with Bibisara Assaubayeva.

Five women are in the lead, the others being Muzychuk, Zhu Jiner and Kateryn Lagno. Six rounds remain.

The open section of the Candidates continues to be dominated by Javokhir Sindarov.

In the eighth round, he was even done a favour by the second-placed Fabiano Caruana, whose unwise pawn-push on the kingside, from an equal position, put him on the path to a disappointing defeat to Hikaru Nakamura in the battle between the two top-seeded Americans.

Sindarov thus increased his lead to two points.

He has 6.5 points after his quick draw with Andrey Esipenko.

R. Praggnanandhaa was beaten by Anish Giri, who thus joined Caruana in second position (4.5 points).

The results (eighth round):
Open: Andrey Esipenko (Rus) 2.5 drew with Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb) 6.5; Wei Yi (Chn) 3.5 drew with Matthias Bluebaum (Ger) 3.5.
Anish Giri (Ned) 4.5 bt R. Praggnanandhaa 3.5; Hikaru Nakamura (USA) 3.5 bt Fabiano Caruana (USA) 4.5.
Women: Anna Muzychuk (Ukr) 4.5 lost to Divya Deshmukh 4.5; Bibisara Assaubayeva (Kaz) 3.5 drew with R. Vaishali 4.5; Kateryna Lagno (Rus) 4.5 bt Aleksandra Goryachkina (Rus) 3.5; Tan Zhongyi (Chn) 3.5 lost to Zhu Jiner (Chn) 4.5.

Four Indians enter finals in Asian boxing

Sports Bureau

World champions Minakshi Hooda (48kg) and Jaismine Lamboria (57kg) and former World youth champions Vishvanath Suresh (50kg) and Sachin Siwach (60kg) advanced to the finals of the Asian boxing in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on Tuesday.

Minakshi saw off Thailand's Thipsatcha Yodwaree 4-1.

She will meet local favourite Nomundari Enkh-Amgalan in the summit clash on Wednesday.

Jaismine overcame a stiff challenge from Uzbek Olympian Nigina Uktamova 3-2 to set up a title bout with Thailand's Punrawee Ruenros.

Vishvanath beat Jordan's Huthaifa Eshish 5-0, while Sachin defeated Thailand's Sakda Ruamtham 4-1 in the last-four. Vishvanath will face Japan's Daichi Iwai, while Sachin will take on Kazakh World champion Orazbek Assylkulov.

The results (semifinals): Men: 50kg: Vishvanath Suresh bt Huthaifa Eshish (Jor) 5-0; **60kg:** Sachin Siwach bt Sakda Ruamtham (Tha) 4-1; **75kg:** Javokhir Abdurakhimov (Uzb) bt Akash 4-1; **85kg:** Jasurbek Yuldoshev (Uzb) bt Lokesh 5-0; **90kg:** Parviz Karimov (Taj) bt Harsh Choudhary 4-1; **+90kg:** Nayikewuzi Danabieke (Chn) bt Narender 4-1.
Women: 48kg: Minakshi Hooda bt Thipsatcha Yodwaree (Tha) 4-1; **57kg:** Jaismine Lamboria bt Nigina Uktamova (Uzb) 3-2.

Augusta firm and fast ahead of 90th Masters

Agence France-Presse
AUGUSTA

Top-ranked Scottie Scheffler and defending champion Rory McIlroy tested their shotmaking at opening practice for the 90th Masters on Monday as the world's top golfers prepared for the year's first Major. Formidable conditions are expected for Thursday's first round at Augusta National, where there's no rain in the forecast and undulating greens are likely to run firm and fast all week.

"You will see long hitters doing well here," two-time winner Jose Maria Olazabal of Spain predicted. McIlroy, who became the sixth man to complete a career Grand Slam by winning his first green jacket, began practice rounds over the weekend.

"The first few days it's all about enjoying the perks," said McIlroy.

The 36-year-old World No. 2 from Northern Ireland is trying to join Tiger Woods, Nick Faldo and Jack Nicklaus as the only back-to-back Masters winners.

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 10.15 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2 & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

THE HINDU GROUP

SHOWCASE YOUR INSTITUTION TO KARNATAKA'S FINE YOUNG MINDS

Participate in Karnataka's premier education fair and interact with students seeking the right academic path.
We invite:

- Universities
- Institutions
- UPSC, NEET & CET Experts
- Financial Institutions

The Hindu **Education Plus Career Counselling Fair 2026** in Karnataka.

Secure your spot today and discover the cities brightest minds!

THE HINDU EDUCATIONPLUS
career counselling fair '26
Karnataka

April 25 - May 16, 2026 | 10 AM onward
Bengaluru, Bidar, Davangere, Kalaburagi,
Mysuru, Vijayapura, Tumakuru, Hubballi & Mangaluru

For sponsorship enquiries, contact:
Bengaluru 97421 77743 | Mangaluru 94481 60126
Mysuru 94488 71815 | North Karnataka 97314 00992